UNDER THE CHINOOK ARCH

1867 1967

A HISTORY OF CAYLEY AND SURROUNDING AREA

Christmas 1967

Eva & Ed Gooder

Best Wishes

Ernie & Ruth

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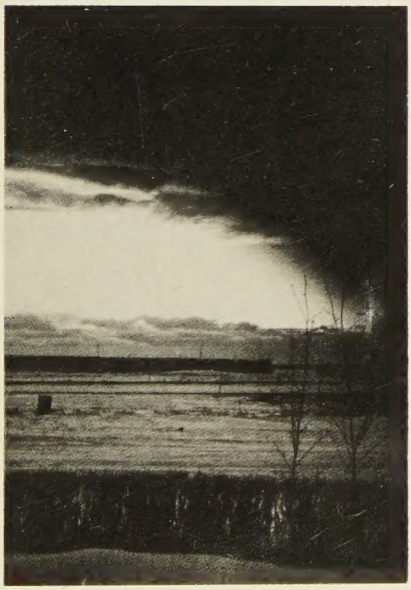
A HISTORY OF CAYLEY AND SURROUNDING AREAS



Stormy Chinook

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1867 1967

Forward

Not many places in the world are as close to the beginning of the development of their community as we are here in Alberta, so in this, our country's Centennial Year, we have accepted the challenge to tell the story of our community and its surrounding districts to the best of our ability. We have tried to make it both factual and interesting.

The area covered lies between a line four miles north of Cayley to the township line four miles south of Cayley, and from the mountains in the west to the township line twelve miles east. In the western section the Highwood River has also been a boundary.

From this area which includes famous foothill ranches and fertile prairie land, hundreds of thousands of head of prime beef and millions of bushels of wheat have gone to help nourish the world. Sons and daughters of the pioneers and of later district families serve as missionaries, engineers, geologists and scientists in far parts of the world. In fields of education, health, religion, agriculture and industry they serve in many provinces of our nation. Some carry on with the homesteads and ranches established by their fathers.

Appreciations

Some of the letters and interviews were contributed some years ago by district pioneers who have since passed on. We are indebted to them for their first-hand accounts, and also to H. D. Johnson, S. E. Elves, L. Beaton, Sr., Charles Phillips, E. McDonagh, Mrs. Widdup and others for information they have given us.

Those who have done the greater part of gathering and compiling the material are Iris Keller, Beatrice Houlden, Lola Hanson, Harriett Pence, Eva Cumming, Mabel Coote, Leta Arnold, Margaret Wickens, Edna Beaton and Leona Houlden. General Editor: Iris Keller, Typist: Beatrice Houlden.

Information on the West Country was gathered by Alberta Hitchener, Rena Duncan and Carman Roy.

Appreciation is expressed to those in all parts of the area who assisted by contributing stories or in any other way; to our Cayley Women's Institute President, Marion Alexander, for assistance and encouragement, and to all W. I. members.

We also wish to express our gratitude to the Council of the Village of Cayley and to the Councillors of Foothills Municipal District for financial assistance toward the publication of this book.

To any whom we may have forgotten, our sincere apologies.

W. I. History Committee

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Alberta Historical Review
One Day's Journey
Whoop-Up Trail
Files from Glenbow Foundation
Canadian Cattlemen

To the pioneers whose courage and hard work established this farming and ranching community and passed it on, a priceless heritage, to this and future generations.

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As much as possible stories and biographies in each section have been arranged chronologically.

Hugh St. Quentin Cayley

H.S. Cayley
Courtesy Glenbow Foundation

Hugh St. Quentin Cayley for whom Cayley was named, was a law graduate of Toronto University.

He came to Calgary in the early 1880's and worked first as a Dominion land agent, later opening a private law practise.

Mr. Cayley was a small man in stature but a great orator and vigorous in his views about justice. In 1885 he bought the Calgary Herald from Armour and Bredin with whom he had been in partnership. He was also Clerk of the District Court and in his paper he expressed the hope that the next magistrate appointed to Calgary would be a Westerner with an understanding of the West. Instead Jeremiah Travis of Nova Scotia was appointed and Mr. Cayley found good reason to criticize him in his paper. When he would not apologize or pay a $100 fine he was thrown in jail, as were several Aldermen. He had not served long in jail when the Minister of Justice ordered him released with remission of fines. Not long after this there was a territorial election and Hugh St. Quentin Cayley was one of two elected to represent Calgary on the council of the Northwest Territories. People voted for him because he was a man of principle. The stigma of jail was no political handicap to him. In each of the 1887, 1888, and 1889 elections he was re-elected and was ultimately appointed to the Bench.

After leaving Calgary he practised law in various points in British Columbia, and was appointed Judge of Vancouver County Court. He retired in 1933 and died in 1934. He was a Conservative in politics and a member of the Anglican Church. He was a scholar and student of literature, and was considered a capable judge.

One Hundred Years Ago

One hundred years ago when Canada became a nation this area which we call our own was still the domain of the Indian and buffalo. Great herds of buffalo numbering in thousands grazed quietly on the prairie --or thundered over it 'till the earth trembled with their impact. Indians of the Blackfeet nation roamed at will and followed the seasonal migrations of the buffalo. The winds swished the tall prairie grass, coyotes howled, and birds sang in summer. In winter the warm Chinook melted the snows and brought relief from the cold to the men and women of the teepees and to the buffalo huddled in the coulees.

The Old North Trail passed through the area that is now ours - an ancient travelway made by moccasined feet and trailing travois poles - it reached from the Arctic to South America.

The Old Woman's Buffalo Jump was used but little for the Indians now had horses and could kill the big animals as they raced across the prairie. Few explorers or traders had yet dared to penetrate the Blackfeet country.

Rupert's land was the name of the vast territory that stretched from Lake

Winnipeg to the mountains, of which this was a part. Two years later, in 1869, the Government purchased it from the Hudson Bay Company for 300,000 pounds, and it then became the Northwest Territories.

The Old Trail

That same year, 1869, saw the beginning of the Indian traders from the States and the erection of trading forts at strategic points near the Old North Trail. Over the trail creaked and lumbered the I. G. Baker bull trains loaded with trade goods on the northern trip and buffalo robes coming back.

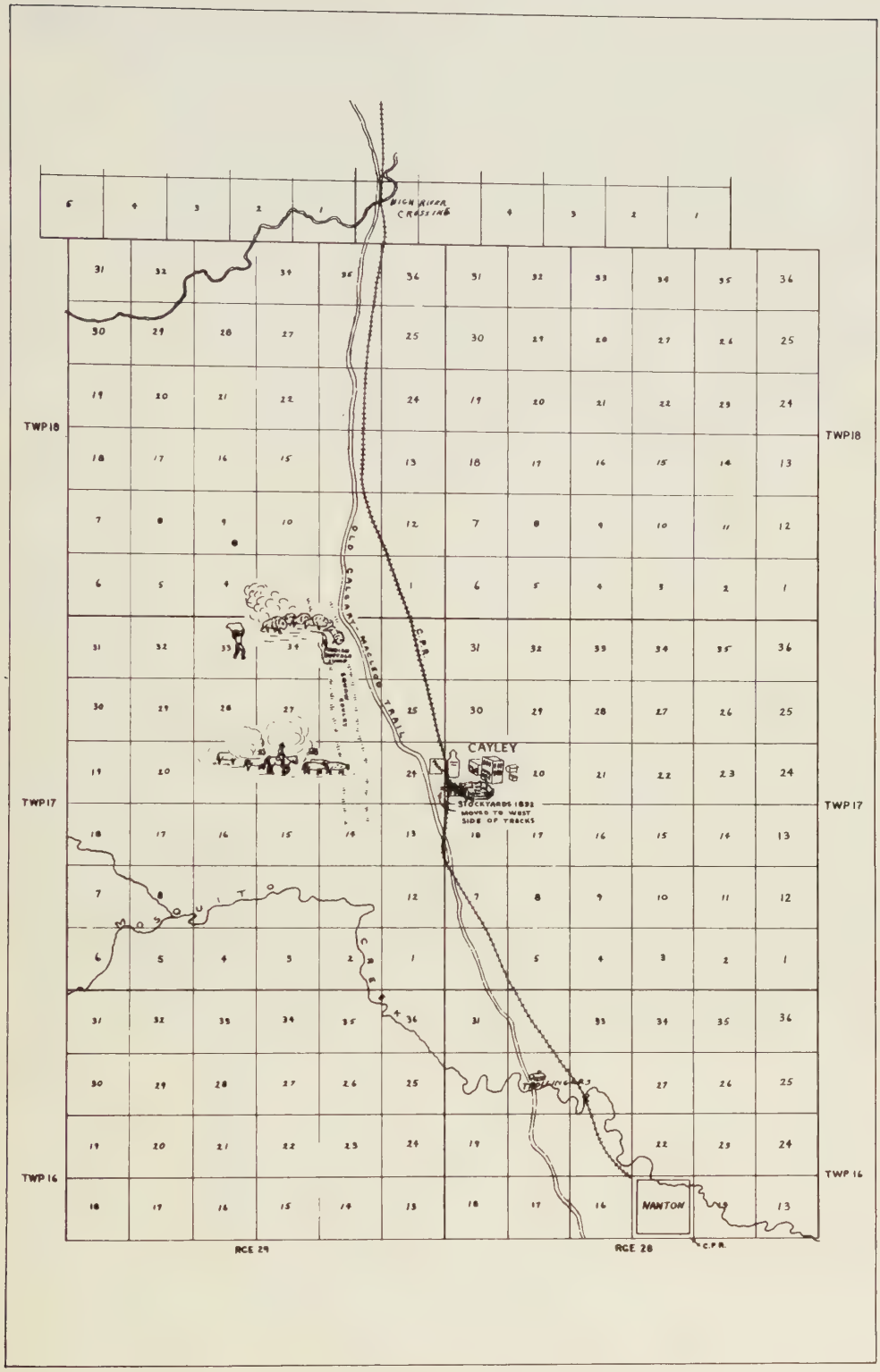
The trading stock came up the Missouri River by paddle-wheel steamer to Fort Benton, Montana and was there transferred to the wagons. The bull trains were made up of eight or ten teams of oxen. Each team, comprised of eight yokes of oxen (sixteen), pulled three heavy freight wagons and hauled about ten tons of freight. The "bull whacker" walked alongside the teams cracking his long-lashed bull whip to direct the animals and keep them moving. The strength of his voice and the pungency of his vocabulary was legendary. Each whacker took a week's turn as cook of the outfit. At night the animals were turned out on the prairie to graze under watch of the night-herder. A train-boss managed the outfit. A constant watch had to be kept for hostile Indians. The going was slow, about ten or twelve miles a day, and it took all summer to make the round trip. Some of the trains were made of faster-moving mule teams, driven on a jerk-line hook-up.

The great high wheels of the wagons cut deep ruts in the prairie. As one set became too deep for travel another set was started. Near the present site of Cayley the multiple ruts - thirty or more sets - spread to a width of about fifty yards. For many years these ruts could still be seen engraved on pasture fields along the route of the trail, but now that most fields have been broken, only a few scattered traces remain..

At first the trade with the Indians was mainly in useful goods such as blankets, cloth, guns, axes, flour, tea, tobacco until some traders discovered that a lethal mixture of whiskey, alcohol, gun-powder, chewing tobacco, red-pepper, blue-stone and water was much more profitable. Two cups of "fire water" bought a buffalo robe, four gallons a good buffalo pony. The mixture made the Indians crazy-drunk and caused the death of many. This situation, climaxed by the savage slaughter of Indians wintering in the Cypress Hills, by whiskey traders, brought about the formation of the North West Mounted Police who arrived at Fort MacLeod in 1874. The whiskey traders were driven out and the officers and men of the new force patrolled the old trail, and it then became known as the MacLeod Trail. The bull trains continued freighting supplies for the police and early settlers who were beginning to arrive.

Stage travel was established in the early 1880's. The "stage" was usually an open wagon pulled by a six-horse team - or possibly a mule team. Mail was carried, but as letters had to be posted in Fort Benton, United States Stamps were needed as well as Canadian stamps. Regular stage coaches were used later on. Stopping houses were built along the trail including Tollingers at Mosquito Creek Crossing and O.H. Smith's at High River.

The first herds of cattle for the early ranches were driven north over the Old Trail by Emerson and Lynch, the John Quirks and others. John and Kate Quirk, who trailed in 450 head in 1881 with only the help of their collie dog, made camp the last night of their trek on the height of land where Cayley is now located. A few years later immense herds of thousands of range cattle came up the trail.



Courtesy Norma Lendrum

Missionaries, settlers in covered wagons, buckboards, California carts, saddle horses followed the rutted trail which maintained its usefulness to whites and Indians until some years after 1900. The railway surveyers used the trail as a guide, roughly paralleling it on its way north and south.

After the homesteads were taken up the trail was fenced off here and there, but those who were accustomed to using it considered it a legal roadway and were reluctant to abandon its use. Fence cutting was a major nuisance to settlers on land through which the old trail passed. Finally a compromise was reached and gates were made to allow travellers through where no other satisfactory road was available.

When the main graded road was built from Calgary south, it too was known as the Macleod Trail.

Early Ranching Days

The tremendous expanse of open prairie, the nutritious grass, the streams and sloughs, the warm breath of the Chinook in winter, the sheltering valleys of the foothills all combined to make our area an important part of the greates cattle empire of the North West Territories..

By 1880 the robe trade had made the buffalo almost extinct. The last buffalo near this area was an old bull seen near Frank Lake in 1884. In 1880 the Government began leasing out grazing land at one cent per acre per year. The rate was raised to two cents in 1886. Word of this great grazing land, available almost for free, spread to Britain, to the States and to Eastern Canada and large ranching companies were organized.

The ranchers were restricted to so many head of cattle per acre of lease but boundaries meant little or nothing for cattle from all the ranches ranged unhampered over the entire prairie.

A High River round-up crew.

For twenty five years or so the big ranches flourished and tremendous herds of cattle were built up. At one time George Lane alone had more than 50,000 head of cattle on the Little Bow and Bar U ranges. Roundups were held spring and fall with representatives of the various ranches co-operating to gather in the cattle from all over the range irrespective of brand or owner. A "wagon boss" was in charge of each ranch outfit. Each rider had a string of from eight to twelve saddle horses which were the responsibility of the day and night wranglers.. The cook drove the chuck wagon and the night wrangler drove the bed wagon which carried the bed rolls and sleeping tent. The roundups often lasted a month or more and the brandings which followed would take another two weeks.

The winter of 1886-87 was a very severe one with seventy five percent of the cattle perishing. Another very disastrous year was 1906-07. As land was being taken up by the homesteaders the remaining range had become over-stocked and

the cattle were in poor shape. Mange too had flared up again and many poor animals went into winter almost hairless. They were driven south by the storms and piled up against creek banks, railway grades and settlers fences. Herds were depleted by half to three quarters and many ranchers were financially ruined. It was estimated that at least 12,000 head of Bar U cattle perished.

The last great roundup was held int the spring of 1907 when 130,000 of the storm-driven cattle were gathered in from the southern part of the province. It was a big operation, well carried out. "Slippery Bill" McCombe was the man chosen by the ranch owners to head the entire roundup.

By 1907 many homesteaders were well established and the days of the open range were drawing to a close. The ranchers were forced to consolidate their operations within the confines of their foothill lease and deeded land. Many of the ranch headquarters had originally been established in the hills for the sake of winter shelter, and most of those big ranches are still in operation today.

The Bar U

One of the earliest of the big ranches, the Bar U was established in 1882 under the name North West Cattle Company, and was owned by Allan Steamship Lines of Montreal. Fred Stimson of the province of Quebec, in whose mind the idea of founding the ranch had originated, was the organizer and manager. Fifty thousand acres of lease were obtained and the ranch buildings constructed on Pekisko Creek.

An early view of the Bar U Ranch buildings. *Courtesy Alvin Hedlund*

In 1884, on the recommendation of the Montana Stockman's Association a young cowboy, George Lane, was hired as ranch foreman at thirty five dollars per month. A few years later Lane began buying cattle with Gordon. Ironsides and Fares, and in 1902 he and his associates purchased the Bar U. By this time the settlers were coming in and Lane's business eye saw the possibilities in raising draught horses for farm use, and the Bar U became the greatest Percheron ranch in the world. In 1920 Lane became sole owner of the ranch.

George Lane passed away in 1925, and in 1926 the ranch was sold to P. Burns Company. In 1950 the main part of the ranch was sold to Allen Baker, the present owner. A part which joined the main ranch on the east was sold to Harry Hays, now Senator Hays, about the same time.

George Lane's Motto: Always keep yourself in a position to look any man straight in the eye and tell him to go to hell.

A frightening animal in Bar 'U' Corrals.

Bar 'U' Horses.

Boyd Elliott on Cutting Horse – Jim Carthwright, Hayes. Taken prior to 1960 on Carthwright's 'D' Ranch.

The D Ranch

The first history of the D ranch goes back to the very early settlement of this area. In the winter of 1882-3, the Bar U got timber out from a mile South-East of where the D ranch buildings now stand, and a year later they built a cabin across the creek and just South-West of the buildings. There was no wagon road on the North side of Pekisko until 1888, when Billy MacDougall and George Baker made it in order to get fence poles out. They built a cabin up what is now called Baker Creek.

When Miller and Lane were getting out timber for the Bar U they had Bob Stevenson build a cabin which is still the kitchen of the old ranch house here at the D. This was built in 1888. It was never used by them but was sold to John Thorp in February, 1889. John Thorp used the brand 86 on the left hip. He had Guillaime Gervais, who had built the T L, come over and build the rest of the log part of the original ranch house.

Aubrey Cartwright, after working at the Bar U during the summer of 1900, went to work for Gordon McConnell in Spetember 1900, whose buildings were located on the flat above what is known as McConnell Falls. He was alone at the place in December of that year when McConnell and Jack Nichol took advantage of a chinook, to go to High River foi supplies. Soon after they left High River for the return trip, a blizzard overtook them and they both perished. They were unable to cross Stimson creek because of its swollen condition as a result of the terrific chinook. They attempted to make camp but, when found, one was dead and the other died in hospital from frost bite.

After this incident Aubrey Cartwright went to work for John Thorp. They became firm friends and became full partners in 1907. In 1909 they bought some 300 head of mixed cattle from Mike Herman, for the sum of $8,500.00, the brand included. This was the D brand. It was started by Bob Dixon who had a cabin up Dixon coulee in about 1885. Bob Dixon went insane and Mike Herman bought the brand.

The Chain Lakes 'Calf Camp' was bought in 1914 and was part of the operation until 1950. At this time the HL was purchased from the Bar U and was part of the ranch operation until it was replaced by the EP in February, 1962.

Other parcels of land that were acquired over the years consisted mostly of homesteads that were too small and were uneconomic when the going got rough. The Cameron outfit never recovered from the diasatrous winter of 1919-20. This place was bought in 1926 and consisted of the largest cattle purchase made, there being just over 300 head of cattle. These cattle were branded VE on the right ribs with some cattle branded $\widehat{G}$. The buildings were located just a mile up the road West from the D buildings. Some of the present ranch buildings were moved from the Cameron site.

Also, in 1926, the Roche and the Nash homesteads were purchased. The old George Emerson homestead was added along with other land from the Bar U, in 1950, when the Burns Ranches sold the Bar U off in parcels.

As mentioned, the EP was acquired in February, 1962. This was done to form the place into a single block of land, rather than having a feed camp, as we called it, some distance away. Also, it was capable of producing much more winter feed than the land to the West which is so much rougher, rockier and tree covered.

Frank Bedingfeld and his mother moved on to what was later the EP, in 1886, where they had a partnership going with Seven U Brown. Frank married in 1910

and Seven U Brown moved up to establish the Seven U Ranch. Frank, after returning from service in the first World War, sold the ranch to Edward, Prince of Wales, in 1919. The Prince became interested in the place when he was the guest of George Lane, owner of the Bar U Ranch, and after getting the approval of his father, George Fifth, purchased it before he left Canada. The rest of the history is too well known to be repeated here.

In 1917, Aubrey Cartwright broke his leg and, while a patient in the High River hospital, he met the matron, Miss Eleanor Hughes, and the next year they were married. Two sons were born to the Cartwrights, Jack and Jim. The latter stayed on the ranch and became a partner with Mr. Thorp and his Dad, in 1942. Mr. Thorp died in December, 1950, and Aubrey Cartwright, in July, 1951. In 1947, Jim married Mary Dale, of Toronto, and they had four children, of whom three are living, two boys and a girl. The oldest, John, is starting at Olds Agricultural College, and Gordon, 12, is at boarding school. We feel sure that the future will see them following in the footsteps of their father and grandfather.

Jim Cartwright

CC Ranch

The closest ranch to where Cayley now stands was the CC on Mosquito Creek, organized in 1884 as the Little Bow Ranche Company by William Cochrane and Associates of England. Billy, as he was known, took over the ranch with Charlie Anderson as manager, and fifteen hundred head of cattle were trailed in from Montana. At the peak of operations - about 1903 - the ranch ran 3,000 head, mostly of Galloway breeding sired by Galloway bulls which Cochrane had imported.

Billy was an adventurous character, without fear of anything or anybody, and an inveterate practical joker. His wife, Evelyn, came to the ranch first in 1887 bringing a governess for young Peter. After that the Cochranes spent their winters in England and their summers at the ranch. The CC then became a social centre for the area.

In 1901 a devestating prairie fire swept the country, burning for three days and blackening 20,000 acres of CC range. Many head of cattle and horses in the area lost their lives in the fire.

In 1909 Cochrane (who incidentally was no relation to the other ranching Cochranes) sold the CC to Coolige and Drumheller of Spokane, and returned to England. Jack Drumheller managed the ranch until it was sold to the Hutterian Bretheren in 1937.

76 Ranch

Another of the big ranches close to our district was the Powder River Cattle Company which established headquarters on Mosquito Creek in 1886, buying out Tollinger's Squatter's Rights to the half section on which the Stopping House was located. The brand was 76 and the company was part of a very large British owned ranching concern of Wyoming. They obtained seven townships of leaseland and as well as their big herds of cattle had half the sheep then in the Northwest Territories.

The men of the 76 were experienced and capable cattlemen who drove 9800 head of cattle up from Wyoming that first summer with practically no loss. The cattle were divided into four separate herds for trailing, each herd complete with wagons and cowboys. The 76 sustained smaller losses during the cold winter which followed than did most of the ranches - partly because of their experience

with stock and possibly also because their cattle were a heavier type of animal.

In 1888 the ranch was sold to Sir Lester Kaye of the Canadian Agriculture, Coal and Colonization Company. Part of the lease was cancelled in 1890 to make way for expected settlers, and the remaining lease was cancelled two years later. Kaye's stock was moved to other Company ranches and the deeded land sold to T. H. Plunkett. In 1902 Fred Ings purchased the land and renamed it Midway Ranch. It is now operated by Mr. Ings daughter and her husband - Mr. and Mrs. W. Loree.

There were other early ranches in the area - some small and some not so small - which took their part in opening up the country. Some were broken up into homestead quarters, others were incorporated into the holdings of the bigger ranches. Some still remain.

The Ross Ranch

William Podger, the son of a London Miller, started ranching on the Little Bow in 1886. Podger tried hard but unsuccessfully to become a rancher and three years and ten thousand dollars later sold out to George Ross for three dollars an acre and moved to Calgary.

FIFTY YEARS AGO
From the News of Sept. 14, 1916

John Eversman has changed the name of his place from the "Old Ross Ranch" to the "Hawk-Eye Ranch". That name will enable people from the States to guess what part of the country Mr. Eversman came from.

George Ross, the son of a titled English banker, had brought seven hundred heifers from Ontario which he branded with the Ace of Spades. Like several others of the early ranchers he had first located west of the High River Crossing. He had lost the greater part of his herd during the winter of 1886-87 and herded the remainder down Podger's way, and had shared headquarters with Podger prior to buying him out.

Ross' first foreman was that veteran wagon boss, Billy Henry. Billy worked for Ross two years and then ran the Bar XY, the Samson and Harford Ranch, located four miles up the Little Bow from the Ross Ranch. He stayed with the Bar XY three years before returning to Ross in '93. During this period Ross managed the hotel which he had purchased in High River and Billy Henry had aquired a herd of 175 cattle of his own. In 1896 he traded his cattle to Ross for the hotel, and Ross moved back to the ranch.

While Billy was at the Ace of Spades he spent many days with his cattle and wagon waiting on freight cars to be brought to Cayley to ship out beef.

When the Government and Railway began encouraging farmers to come west, and selling the leased land of the rancher for $2.00 per acre, it was evident to Ross that more than cattle would soon be shipped from Cayley, so he sold his

land to Moir Brothers of Iowa and his cattle to the Bar U.

Managers under Moir ownership were Frank Cunningham, James Hodges and Jack Eversman. Eversman was also from Iowa, and under his management the ranch became known as the Hawkeye. He remained on the ranch until 1920. After that, one of the largest sales to take place at that time was held on the ranch under the direction of Frank Brown as Moir's agent. People attended it from all over and the location of the Hawkeye on Sec 27-17-27 on the banks of the Little Bow was well advertised. The east half of Section 34, which had been bought from Homesteader John Rupert, was sold to Andy Christofferson. Section 23, where part of the buildings were located, was sold to John Marshall, and Section 25 and the north half of 24 to Charlie Marshall.

Homestead of William Podger on the Little Bow. Built by Spaldings - 1886. (behind) New house built in 1954, by Christofferson, Peplinskie, and Pence. Old house being dismantled.

In 1930 Earl McDonagh bought the south half of Section 26, and in 1943 the north west quarter was bought by Ira Rhodes. Frank Brown received the deed to Section 27 in payment for disposal of the other land. He rented to Dan Coughlin with Joe Watt farming it in the Thirties. It was then rented to Andy McIlvride and in 1942 to Don Pence, Frank Brown's nephew. In 1944 the land was sold to Karl Christofferson. Karl pastures his cattle on grass still sufficient although it is now 80 years since William Podger gave up ranching.

J. L. SexSmith

R. Sleeman

Mr. & Mrs. J.L. SexSmith, 1899
Taken on the Little Bow

This is a beautiful foothills country, nestled at the foot of the Rocky Mountains to the West, with limitless view and expanse on the North, South and East. When the first settlers arrived, the trees were confined to the rivers and draws with untold wealth of grazing. Leaving the rails' end by wagon and encountering Indians on the way, was indeed an adventure in itself. So it was in 1883 when Mrs. John SexSmith and seven children arrived from Ottawa via Chicago and Calgary and came to the Crossing, now High River, late in the evening. It was November 9th. There was no snow on the prairie. It was a beautiful sunny day and balmy evening. They forded the Highwood River around 11 P.M. and the only assurance of habitation was a faint light glimmering in the distance. On arriving at Mrs. Quirk's they were directed to the stopping place of French and Smith to join their husband and father who had left the home in Quebec the year before. Mr. John SexSmith had been with a survey crew to Lethbridge in 1882. Mr. & Mrs.

John Quirk lived in the only dwelling at the Crossing at that time. The faint glimmering light was reflection of moonlight on a window. The stopping place of French and Smith was on the river to the West.

Wonderful fortitude and hope was exemplified by a Mother to travel so far with her children to make a new home, leaving all her friends and most of her possessions behind. They also must have had many mixed feelings and wondered in their hearts at so vast and beautiful a country. There was mile on mile of space above and about. They were the first white family of children in High River, others coming the next Spring. Just to stop and ponder that trip West, one cannot but think of the distance, the lack of conveniences, and the utter absence of our modern medicines. It was that same pioneer spirit and self reliance that opened this great western country. The hospitality and neighborly assistance of all those early people is almost a lost art. Children of the early families seemed specially healthy.

John Lemuel SexSmith was a boy of eleven in 1883 and many manly duties were his in those early years. After helping his father with erection of several log homes about the district he hired out as a cow hand at the age of 14 to Charlie Knox. Many trips were made across many miles alone by those early riders. A round trip to Calgary in a day has been made to bring a doctor for the family. Mr. SexSmith homesteaded on the Little Bow and later purchased land from Samson and Harford.

Samson and Harford from Wyoming and Montana, formed a partnership in 1886 when the former was trailing cattle north. They had been boyhood friends in England. They pooled their herds, arrived here that same year and took out a lease on the Little Bow. Harford sold his interest to Samson and returned to England. Samson sold out later to J..Lem SexSmith.

Lem SexSmith, as he was known far and wide, married Margaret Jane Fisk in 1899 and took his bride to this home. Mrs. SexSmith came to the Gladys Ridge District with her family in 1888. Three of the children spent their early childhood at this home on the Little Bow where one was born. When they became school age the family moved to High River. The home on the hill still stands where the spruce trees planted by Mr. SexSmith in 1905 continue to grow. Many a large and small bucket of water was carried by the family, to those trees that they should survive.

In later years Mr. SexSmith was manager of the Bar U on Willow Creek. When it was sold to Senator Pat Burns the name was changed to Flying E. and Mr. SexSmith still served as manager. He retired at the age of 70. He sold his boots and saddle and gave to his best friend his prized saddle stock. This saddle stock was of the same strain he had when he first ranched on the Little Bow in the early nineties. "Old Lucy" was our family horse. She was raised on the Little Bow and it was her offspring that provided Mr. SexSmith with saddle stock all his life. In those early years, it seemed every family had a horse which was really almost human and part of the family. A horse that was trustworthy and faithful, that reflected the pioneer spirit of the owner.

With the passing of years we have the passing of the pioneers. In 1954 at the age of 81, Mr. SexSmith was laid to rest in a plot of ground he had owned for 50 years, having been predeceased by an infant son in 1904. Mrs. SexSmith passed away in 1965 and Lillian (Mrs. J. H. Sutherland) in 1956. They are survived by four daughters, Mrs. D.V. Bennett, Mrs. E.D. Arnold, Mrs. E.N. Sleeman, Mrs. E. J. Gooder and one son W. L. E. SexSmith.

Thomas Alexander Henry

Thomas Alexander Henry (Tom) emmigrated from Perthshire Scotland to Winnipeg in 1879. In the early spring of '82 he obtained work as a teamster with a C.P.R. Contractor, building grade through the Rockies, when the work was ended in the fall, he proceeded to the Crossing at High River, where a brother-in-law, James Crombie had settled the previous year.

The first winter he broke horses on the Winder Ranch, in the spring he was back in High River helping the Spalding Brothers at logging and building homes for settlers. During slack periods in this business he continued to break horses on nearby ranches, first at the High River Horse Ranch and then the Quorn. He broke a herd of horses for the Hulls, and was in charge of the "25" horse herd for two years.

In 1890, Tom took up a homestead on the Little Bow and in June 1890 married Jessie Scott of Inverness Scotland who had come out in 1888 to visit her sister Mrs. Charles Spalding, she was accompanied by Miss Jessie Rench, who made her home with the Henry's after their marriage until her death in 1939.

Tom raised horses as well as cattle and in later years farmed. He was one of the first feeders in the district, developing his own methods of finishing live stock. In 1912 he shipped a carload of steers from the Cayley Stock Yards, the first from the West to top the Chicago Market, every animal on this shipment weighed over a ton. He was frequently employed as a beef buyer by W. R. Hull, and later Pat Burns. He had an uncanny accuracy for estimating the weight of cattle on the range.

The ranch was sold to F. F. Butler at the turn of the Century and the Henry's bought the Samson and Hartford place, this remained in the Henry family until 1964.

Mrs. Henry was the first President of the first Women's Organization in the district (Presbyterian Ladies Aid). Marjory Scott, their daughter, married the Rev. John Kennedy in 1914, her husband coming from Scotland in 1900 to do pioneer missionary work in the West. They have two sons, John Alexander, in business in Toronto and Thomas Henry, Supervisor for the Royal Bank of Canada in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Thomas Alexander Henry Jr. bought the Bayfield place and lived all his life farming in the district. Alex married Elsie Schacht, a neighbors daughter. Members of their family are Nora in B. C., Tom & Ken, Charlie and Ronald and Marlyn (Mrs. Ramsay) Charlie and Ron still own land in the district.

Mrs. Kennedy

The Glendennings

In 1891 Jim and John Glendenning came to High River from Oxford County, Ont., with their widowed mother and sister and settled on a tract of land purchased from the C.P.R. where they homesteaded and bought a herd of cattle. In 1893 an older brother came from Ontario, he met Jim in Montana, where they bought a herd of horses and trailed them home to the ranch holdings. For some time they raised Clydes for sale to the homesteaders.

In 1900 Jim started farming the homestead, which was along the Little Bow, but John sold his interest to Jim and started to work for George Lane and then went with Walter Wake buying cattle for Pat Burns. As a cattle buyer for Burns,

The later stockyards at Cayley on the west side of the railway, with elevators behind. From painting by Jean Stephenson.

he had many exciting experiences cowboying in the open range from Sheep Creek to Fort McLeod, helping to gather thousands of head of cattle in the draws and coulees for branding.

John made his home in Nanton after 1904 and in 1913 married Miss Margaret Fraser of Lethbridge, they had one daughter Peggy who is presently teaching school in Calgary. John served on the town council and spent 22 years with the Nanton Consolidated School Board. He also served in the Provincial Legislature from 1909 to 1917. During his retirement in Nanton he spent many happy years with the old friends that were left and the memories of the early west. In 1958 he moved to Calgary where he resided until his death on March 17, 1962.

Jim Glendenning also made his home in Calgary in his later years and passed away in 1957.

Cayley Stock Yards

Cayley's most specific claim to fame is the old stock yards which made this the biggest shipping point in the North West Territories - and it is said, - a contender for the world record as the point shipping most beef annually.

The first ranchers had the choice of selling their beef to the government to replace the buffalo for Indian consumption, or of trailing them hundreds of miles east to railway construction camps. After the main rail line reached Calgary, ranchers drove their cattle to Strathmore, east of Calgary, or to Dunmore, east of Medicine Hat.

The C & E (Calgary and Edmonton) railway was built south through Cayley in 1892 and the Cayley Stock Yards were constructed the same year, on the east side of the tracks. Cattle from over a wide area were trailed to the Cayley Yards, Bar U, Circle, Oxley, 76, CC, 44, Bar S, 25, A7, Walrond, Two Dot, Knox Ranch, 7U, Bar XY and others from as far south as the Old Man River.

Cattle were trailed into the yards in great herds of from 2000 to 3000 head. They were rounded up from the open range irrespective of brand or owner and sorted and branded near the Yards. A 1906 issue of the High River Times reports 4000 calves being branded one day at the Cayley Yards. The record number of cattle coming in on one day for shipment was in 1899 when the Walrond, Oxley, Circle, Bar U and Mosquito Creek outfits brought in a total of 10,000 head. It took five days to load them. The main herd was held at Mosquito Creek. The riders worked with quiet skill, sorting out the various classifications. Top export beef was sorted and shipped first, then spayed heifers.

During the shipping season cattle cars stood side-tracked ready for loading. Pat Burns had a standing order for 500 cars a month, and George Lane for 200. A locomotive and train crew were ordered from Calgary when needed. The "Y" enabled the locomotive to turn around and return to Calgary.

Off season shipments were arranged through the agent at High River, and in the fall a telegrapher known as Telegraph Jack came from Calgary and boarded around at the chuck-wagons. He would tap the wires anywhere and squat down on the track and click-clack out his message on a portable instrument.

The cattle marketed in the early years were of a Shorthorn strain. Herefords came much later. Cattle were sold by the head - steers averaging 1400 pounds sold for about $45.00. Selling by weight was reluctantly agreed to by the ranchers in later years.

Horned steers of J. Drumheller which were loaded at Cayley, Alberta for export to Britain. Averaging 1372 lbs., 200 head, shipped April 25, 1921.

Incidently, the first trainload of Alberta range cattle was shipped to Liverpool in 1888 by Charlie Knox, and in the shipment was a grass-fed steer weighing 2100 pounds. That, of course, was several years before the Cayley stockyards were built.

The Yards were constructed with long receiving wings reaching out into the prairie. Billy Henry described cattle "milling" in fright at the sight of the strange structure. They would start circling in an ever tightening formation until they were just a mass of circling horns. It was impossible to break them up so horses and riders would work patiently for hours to manoeuvre the still circling cattle into the wings.

In 1902 the yards were enlarged. Four or five corrals with four loading chutes held about 1000 head. In later years the Yards were moved to the west side of the tracks and rebuilt on a smaller scale.

In 1903 the Bar U, then owned by George Lane and Company, imported three train-loads of Longhorn cattle from Chihuahua, Mexico and they arrived in Alberta during a bad May blizzard. Drifts blocked the tracks delaying the unloading. Some of the cattle had died enroute and others died before they could be unloaded from the cars due to the extreme change in temperature. Many others turned loose on the storm-bound priarie also perished. The 8000 or so wild long-horned cattle remaining were a nuisance and a hazard around the unfenced settler's shacks. Some said the Mexican stock had been deliberately brought into the country to discourage the homesteaders, but this has been stoutly denied by the ranchers.

Thousands of head of horses went through the Cayley Yards. George Lane's Percherons were shipped as breeding stock to many parts of the world.

Pat Burns, Ironsides and Farries and W. Roper Hull were the heaviest purchasers of beef at the Yards. Prominent among the buyers were Walter Wake, Billy Henry, Norman Willans and John Glendenning. Early Brand-Inspectors working at Cayley were Dan Riley, Dick Broderick, and Bill Todd.

Until 1903 the stockyards were the only structure at Cayley and the ranchers and cowboys ran things to suit themselves with none to complain. After the village was established things began to change. A 1906 issue of the High River Times records this little item from the Cayley correspondent:

"The Lord's Day was observed for the first time in Cayley last Sabbath. The Bar U was compelled to hold a large bunch of cattle from Friday until Monday. No more local freight is to be shipped on Sunday. Cayley will be civilized yet."

When the country began settling up, "Water-right" quarters along sloughs and streams were retained by the Government for the benefit of stockmen driving their herds to the stockyards. These quarters were released for homesteading in 1909. In later years after the stockyards were moved to the west side of the tracks, a half section of land just west of the Yards was retained for many years to provide space to hold and sort cattle.

The big shipments dropped sharply after 1907 when the herds were decimated by the intense cold and driving blizzards of the previous winter, but Cayley remained an important shipping point.

During World War II an average of 5000 to 6000 head were again shipped annually, with Rod Macleay of the Anchor P Ranch the biggest individual shipper. Stockyards built at Azure in 1946 cut the cattle numbers at the Cayley yards.

Getting herds across the highway after it was black-topped was a trial to the cattlemen. The cattle would start timidly across the strange looking surface, then in spite of all that horses and riders could do they would turn back in a frenzy and the whole herd would scatter in all directions - especially through Norman Stephenson's fence! One steer got away from the 7U Brown outfit as they were moving the herd into the Yards. Several riders went after the steer leaving two men with the main herd. All was well until a train approached. The engineer let go a blast of the whistle and the herd took off - and of course Norman's fence got it again. It took hours of riding to gather the cattle together again.

Now the stock is loaded into cattle liners right at the ranch corrals and whisked into Calgary in an hour or two. The long drives to the stockyards are but a memory. The Yards are but a memory too, for after the advent of the cattliners the dust lay undisturbed in the holding pens for several years, and in 1965 the Yards were completely dismantled.

Many famous rangemen and cowboys rode the cattle trails to Cayley - George Emerson, George Lane, A. E. Cross, Dan Riley, Billy Henry, 7U Brown and many others including the legendary Negro cowboy, John Ware.

The big herds are no longer trailed into Cayley, but the fame of the "Biggest Shipping Point in the North West Territories" will not be forgotten.

Lane's Drive South

Around the turn of the century the stockmen of southern Alberta felt that the Canadian Pacific Railway was charging excessive freight rates on cattle shipments from Alberta points, and lodged their complaint with the Superintendent of the line.

Steers for export to Britain. Average 1327 pounds. April 25, 1921.

Fall came and the time to ship the beef and still no new arrangements had been made. George Lane decided to do something besides talk so he gathered his steers and headed them south. He crossed the border south of Lethbridge with the cattle in bond and headed for a Great Northern shipping point on the Marias River.

An official of the Canadian Pacific freight department was sitting on the corral fence when the Lane beef trailed into the yards. He saw immediately that the herd had arrived in fine shape without loss of weight or bloom and that the Canadian stockmen could make this long drive and ship from Montana without undue loss or difficulty.

Soon a reduction in freight rates on livestock shipments was arranged to the

satisfaction of both parties and the Lane beef as well as large numbers of cattle from other southern outfits continued to trail to the Cayley Yards.

Dorothy Blades

Cayley Had a World Record

(Clipping from Tommy Primrose Agricultural column in Calgary Herald. 1959)

"Cayley, about 10 miles south of High River, used to claim the world record for the most cattle shipped out of any one point annually. The top place was also claimed by a place in Argentina. Which one actually held the record? There isn't much way of knowing. That the two held top places in the world no one ever disputed, that I heard of.

I once asked Sandy Connell of Stavely, at the time he was foreman for I. V. Parslow and the late George Denoon, why Cayley was such a large shipping centre.

Sandy said that there were two reasons. Cayley was located in the centre of one of the biggest cattle ranching areas in Canada and naturally drew huge amounts of cattle for that reason. The other reason was that the Cayley stockyards were located and constructed in such a way they were the most accessible of any yards for miles along that part of the railway.

Sandy said in the earlier days it had not been unusual for ranchers or buyers to trail herds of cattle as far distant as Claresholm for loading at the Cayley stockyards. The reason for trailing to Cayley was the good corraling and loading facilities at the yards.

I never had the experience of helping with, or even seeing, the really big herds of cattle being trail driven to market or to summer pasture. The largest herd ever seen was 700 head of Hereford heifers which I saw Raymond Clifford, then foreman of the Bar U Ranch, move from the Findlay Farm, owned by Burns Ranches, to the Bar U.

It was a rare and wonderful sight to see the cattle trail through the old Round T and cross the Highwood River, which was just beginning to rise with the spring freshet."

Land Survey

As the Canadian Pacific Railway line was constructed westward, millions of acres of land were surveyed by Dominion Government surveyers in preparation for settlement. It was an enormous task marking out the vast wild prairies into townships, ranges, sections and quarter-sections, and leaving allowance for roads of the future.

Between 1881 and 1883 Townships 17 and 18, Range 28 West of the fourth Meridian, and Township 17, Range 29 west of the fourth were surveyed under the direction of M. Aldous, J. A. Kirk, O. J. Klotz and C. E. Wolff. These men were each in charge of parties surveying separate sub-divisions of the area. All their reports expressed favorable opinions of the future potential of the land they were surveying, such as J. A. Kirk's note on Township 18 - "Undoubtedly a magnificent grazing country, and if climatic conditions are favorable, a very desirable agricultural country."

Squared-off iron posts were used as survey stakes, the quarter-sectional markings on each flat surface. The stakes were driven in a diagonal position in-

to mounds of earth so that the markings faced the quarter-section indicated. The earth for the mound was taken from precise square holes dug about two feet north, south, east and west of the stake location. The iron stakes have long since disappeared and were no doubt used by the homesteaders for their own purposes.

In 1883 approximately 27 million acres of land were surveyed, the magnitude of which as far as is known still stands unrivalled in the survey history of any country of the world.

Not all sections of the country were surveyed at the same time – the area east of the Little Bow, for example, was not done until some years later.

Our Drainage System

Soil profiles show that many of our coulees and valleys were once coursed by waters flowing from mighty glaciers. In our area Squaw Coulee once carried part of this north-south flow. Another old waterway is the coulee, once known as Langford Coulee, extending from the Little Bow two miles south of High River and winding in a south-easterly direction to Silver Lake at Connemara. The Little Bow Valley is part of an ancient drainage course which had its beginning at a point south of Cochrane. Frank Lake basin, about eight miles north-east of Cayley is an obliterated lake, which, about glacial time covered at least twelve sections and drained into the Little Bow.

After the passing of the glacial age our river systems had their origins in the Rockies and cut channels in a west to east direction, giving our western area drainage by the Highwood and its tributaries. The town of High River is situated on an old buried channel where at one time most of the water from the Highwood flowed south down the Little Bow valley. At the present time water from the Highwood is diverted down a canal to the Little Bow as an aid to flood control and to provide a greater flow during dry seasons for stock and irrigation.

Between the Highwood and Mosquito Creek are several isolated moraine islands. It is on one of these higher plateaus of land that Cayley and Azure are situated. Cayley has an elevation of 3514 feet and Azure 3528, while High River to the north is 3400 feet and Connemare five miles south is 3300 feet.

J. de Foras, who has drilled many water wells in the district says that Cayley is situated on an oil-structure forming an anticline. Water can be reached in fifty feet but it is contaminated and unfit for use. Soft water may be reached at approximately ninety feet.

Soil and Weather

Soil of the Cayley district is a mixed loam. Topography is undulating to rolling with deep coulees. East of Cayley is a large silt-loam basin of deep uniform soil which becomes coarser as it goes west. The soil west of Cayley is principally of glacial origin with a zone of black clay at Pekisko.

Warm chinook winds blowing from the west are the main weather feature. Temperatures can range, in an incredibly short time, from thirty or forty degrees below zero to forty above – melting the snow and clearing the grass for winter grazing – making it an ideal stock country. There is a perennial joke about the Old Timer with his team and bobsled racing the chinook. As he travelled east with his team on the run the front runners of the sleigh were in deep snow with the back runners scraping the dirt!
Rainfall varies from year to year but is almost always adequate.

Joe Watt

Joe Watt wrangled horses for "Slippery Bill" on Burns and Lane beef round-up in 1898, working later for his brother, Walter. In 1905 he married Wilhelmina Slade. With their family, Leonard, Walter, Cyril, Gordon (deceased), Bruce (deceased), Anita and Katherine, they moved to the Hawkeye to farm in 1922. The house they lived in was later moved to Section 25. Later McPeaks lived in this same house and were still farming Hawkeye land when Charlie Marshall bought Section 23, now rented by Oscar Jorstad.

The Doty's

Milton Doty walked in to Cayley from Fort Macleod with Andy Gillespie in 1891. They had come on the train from Spokane but the railway between Macleod and Calgary wan not yet built. Milton homesteaded the SW 19-17-29-W4, now Reno de Paoli's place. He was a carpenter and helped build the St. George and the old Alberta Hotel in High River.

Ira Doty followed his parents to Cayley in 1912. He was born in Nebraska in 1891, and after going to the western States had entered a variety of activities from studying law to riding the roundup in Wyoming. He had worked in a bank for a time. The hours were from 7 AM to 7 PM with books to do after that!

Cayley was a pretty wild place in 1912, Ira says. Cowboys from Macleays and the 44 Ranch would whoop it up. He worked for R.L. MacMillan for a time, In 1918 he and Mrs. Doty (Isabel Gilchrist) were married. They moved to the present farm in 1927. Mrs. Doty died in 1945.

Thelma is Mrs. Ted Fritz, Bill married Jean Hunter. Allen married Ruth Davis. They and their sons reside in Cayley. Ralph and his wife, Enid and family live on the home place. Ira too is still on the farm.

The Shaws of Connemara

Tho' we are in the bounds of the Cayley district, for many years in the early days we were cut off from our neighbours to the north due to our geographical location being south of "Lake Silver" and our town has been Nanton.

My father, A. S. (Gus) Shaw was born in McKeller, Ontario in 1880, later moving to Oak Lake, Manitoba with his parents where he farmed with his father. In 1897 a venturesome young Englishman by the name of Harry Tasker came to work on the farm, he and Father were of an age (18) and became fast friends. Deciding to make their fortune in the West they got a job looking after a carload of cattle coming to Calgary. They bunked on a plank platform above the cattle and after unloading some twenty miles east of Calgary, traded their bicycles (which they had brought) for saddle ponies and rode into Calgary. For two years they worked in the district on road and rail-bed construction, etc. At one time they hauled quarry stone from the Glenmore quarry over a prairie trail where the Palliser Hotel now stands.

About 1900 they homesteaded at the edge of "Lake Silver" (the Connemara slough) thinking it was a fresh water lake, it being quite full and about nine miles long. Father homesteaded the S.W. quarter of 4-17-28-W4, my present home, and filed on the quarter to the south for Grandfather. Harry Tasker homesteaded the S.E. quarter of 4-17-28-W4 which is now the home of Lloyd and Donna Loree. This is where they built their first one room shack. At that time there was just a water tank at the present townsite and they ordered their groceries from Okotoks which came by train once a week. Their closest neighbours were the Greig brothers who ranched in the foothills. There were stockyards at Cayley but none between them and the Little Bow, East.

As the district became settled Father set up a grinding mill on Mosquito Creek and Harry set up a barber shop. Every Saturday they would walk or ride into town and ply their trade. An item in a 1903 edition of the Nanton News lists Tasker's barbering equipment for sale and Father's mill was swept away in a flood at about that time. In that year, 1903, Father and Harry Tasker were the local weather chroniclers and a chart of their readings is listed in the Nanton News which was founded by M. J. Bender (Father's uncle) who became the first Overseer of the Village of Nanton, N.W.T. in 1903.

In 1904 Father bought a thresher and mobile steam engine which he thought to be one of the first mobile engines south of Calgary. That fall he threshed oats up and down the foothills from High River to Claresholm for four months. During this run he had two fires which burned straw stacks and some grain and was sued by both farmers. His case was tried in Calgary on June 28, 1905. He was defended by an up and coming young lawyer by the name of R. B. Bennett, who won both cases handily. Due to the trial he was late for his wedding to Miss Marion Tasker who had come out from England the year before to keep house for her brother Harry. Mother was born in Wiltshire, England in 1871. She taught piano and violin for many years and was organist in the Presbyterian Church for twenty five years.

In the early days my parents were close friends of the Walt Hobarts who farmed two miles east (Jake Berger's residence now). They did much farming together and bought the same type of machinery, such as huge Aultman & Taylor engines and eight bottom gang plows. They both had old "Overland" cars and before that Father had a one cylinder "Reo", open chain drive. They both bought a telephone, ran a line along the fence and had their own private telephone line long before phone lines became common. Upon retirement to Nanton, Father served for many years on the Town Council. He passed away March 25, 1963.

Mother still lives in her home in town with a housekeeper. She will be 95 in November, 1966 and is quite active and in good health.

There were four children; Vera born 1906, died six months of age; Dorothy Miriam born in 1907, married Art McIlvride in 1933 and had two sons, Dale and Glen. Art died in 1950 and she married Cecil McIlvride in 1951. She passed away in 1960; George Wm. A. (myself) born in 1910 and Alma Freda born in 1915, now Mrs. Walter McLachlan of Calgary. They have two daughters, Marilyn and Betty Anne.

I received my high school education at Nanton and took a two year course in Commercial Art at Calgary Tech, then came the hungry 30's with jobs scarce and I took over the farm in 1936. Until then it had been rented for a number of years to - in turn - Gordon Howden, Harry Fiest and Mike Smarden. In 1939 I married Anne Alberta Cooper (cousin of the Nanton Coopers) of Calgary. We have three children: George has his B.S. and Masters degrees in Physical Ed. and is teach-

ing in Montreal and plans to return to the West in 1967. He married Ann Good of Innisfail in 1962 and has one daughter, Leslie; Susan Miriam took a Secretarial course in Calgary and a two year course of Interior Design at Mount Royal College and is presently employed by Simpson Sears, Calgary; William Gordon is attending school and keeping us young (or old).

Aneas Andrew Shaw (Father's Uncle) came to the district in 1902 and farmed east of town until 1910, moving to Victoria.

John James Shaw, another Uncle, made his home in the district for some time and died in Calgary in 1938.

George W. A. Shaw

Hugh Warren Shaw

Hugh Warren, known to his friends as "Boy" farms Section 1-17-27-W4 and resides in Calgary during the winter. His father, Hugh Shaw, got his start riding with the Bar U in the early days and later established Nanton's first general store. His grandfather John Shaw settled east of High River on what is now the H.B. Macleod farm.

The Homesteaders

When walking ploughs pulled by straining horses and held steady by the hard-musceled arms of determined young men tore through the resisting "old bottom" of the prairie grass and folded back the long furrows of rich earth, the finest range land in all the west was doomed, But in its place would come the grain fields, the towns and elevators, the rural schools and farm homes and families which have been the backbone of the nation.

In 1902 a trickle of homesteaders came to this area, and in 1903 the rush was on to claim the land. By the end of 1904 all the good homesteads in the district were taken.

The railway gave special rates on settler's effects. Thirty dollars would buy enough lumber at Lineham's mill in High River to build a shack. While the shack was being put up the bachelor homesteaders often slept under the wagon. A family usually put up a tent. Twenty dollars would buy a grubstake of bacon, beans, tea, flour, sugar and other necessities. A steady diet of these staples didn't always prove healthy, for a few incipient cases of scurvy broke out among the bachelors, but Dr. Stanley's prescription of fresh lemons was a sure cure.

It took four horses to pull the walking plough, although some people used three. Thomas Snodgrass used two Indian ponies and a Hereford bull to pull his plough. Two and a half acres a day was considered good breaking. The prairie grass had grown up and died back year after year until a solid mat of dead grass lay against the earth. This was very difficult to plough through and often an exasperated young settler would whip out his matches and set fire to the offending grass. This was one cause of the numerous prairie fires.

After the sod was disked three times some were able to sow a few acres of oats the first year - usually Banner or Victory - which yielded up to one hundred bushels to the acre. Some fall wheat was sown in the first year but early killing frosts made spring wheat impractical. Early maturing varieties were yet to be developed, but Old Timers say that summer frosts were much more frequent and severe, and that whether from the breaking up of the prairie sod or for some other reason, the climate has become milder.

There were many hardships, dangers and problems - prairie fires, blizzards swollen streams, hard labour and loneliness. The lack of bridges brought much grief. Teams and saddle horses would get bogged or break through the ice, wagons upset and contents lost or spoiled. There were no roads - just trails that wound around sloughs and hills. It was very easy to get lost in the dark or during a storm.

Very few homesteaders had money. Stories are told of letters home that had to wait months to be mailed for lack of the few cents to buy stamps. But money wasn't the main thing in those days - grit and ingenuity were much more necessary. In fact it is said that money'd people who took homesteads often failed to prove them up - either for lack of sterner qualities or because their financial position allowed them to escape the hardships of life in a new land.

But money still had its uses and many of the settlers put up hay for the ranchers for $2.50 to $3.00 per ton. Others did carpenter work in town or went to work at Lineham's Mill for the winter. Financial assistance also came from E.F. Thompson of High River who advanced $2.50 per acre for breaking and supplied the fall-wheat seed in exchange for half the crop delivered to town.

Transportation was by wagon or horseback or on foot - and many were the miles of prairie covered by walking - often with a heavy bag of supplies slung over the shoulder. One homesteader north east of town - thought to have been Angus McKay - used his oxen and mower to go to town for supplies, tying his gunny sack of groceries to the tongue of the mower.

There were compensations and pleasures too. Stinkweed and dandelions were unknown - although there were gophers by the million. Wild flowers abounded, mushrooms grew in the old buffalo wallows, wild strawberries grew on the prairie and saskatoons along the Little Bow. Trout was plentiful in the mountain streams and the spring run of suckers in the Little Bow was so heavy that they could be scooped out on the bank with a pitchfork, especially on a moonlight night. Prairie chicken were everywhere.

Strong bonds of friendship grew between neighbours, and the Old Timers look back with fond memories on the neighborliness of the homestead days.

Few of the pioneers were rewarded with wealth but they had the great satisfaction of knowing that they helped create one of the fine wheat growing distircts of the west.

Prior to 1900 homesteaders were given the privilege to pre-empt another quarter section on payment of one dollar an acre at the conclusion of the homestead contract. Mineral rights went with the land before 1900, afterward they were reserved by the Crown.

All of Section Eight and the north-west quarter and south half of Section Twenty Six in each township (except in Townships divisible by five) were reserved for the Hudson Bay Company. In Townships divisible by five, all of both sections were reserved. Mineral rights went with the HBC land.

Sections Eleven and Twenty Nine were reserved as School Lands, the sale of which was to go to the Department of Education.

The C and E Land Company was given a grant of 10,000 acres for each mile of railway between Calgary and Macleod. Most sellers bought a quarter of C and E land joining their homestead quarter. C and E had the odd-numbered sections which sold in 1902 for three dollars an acre, with the price increasing each year. In 1904 C and E land was selling for $7.00 an acre.

Much of the later sod breaking in this area was done by ten or twelve bottom ploughs pulled by steam engines, which could break at the rate of twenty five or thirty acres a day. Kitchen Brothers, Charlie Thruen, Dad Fletcher and his son Frank did much of this work.

Homestead regulations allowed anyone to prove up on a quarter of land without living on it, if they resided within nine miles of the land. Sons could live at home while proving up on nearby homesteads, and some of the big ranchers added to their titled holdings by having cowboys working for them take homesteads with the understanding that the ranch would purchase the homestead after the title was received.

I. Keller

TOWNSHIP MAPS

SHOWING ORIGINAL TITLE-HOLDERS

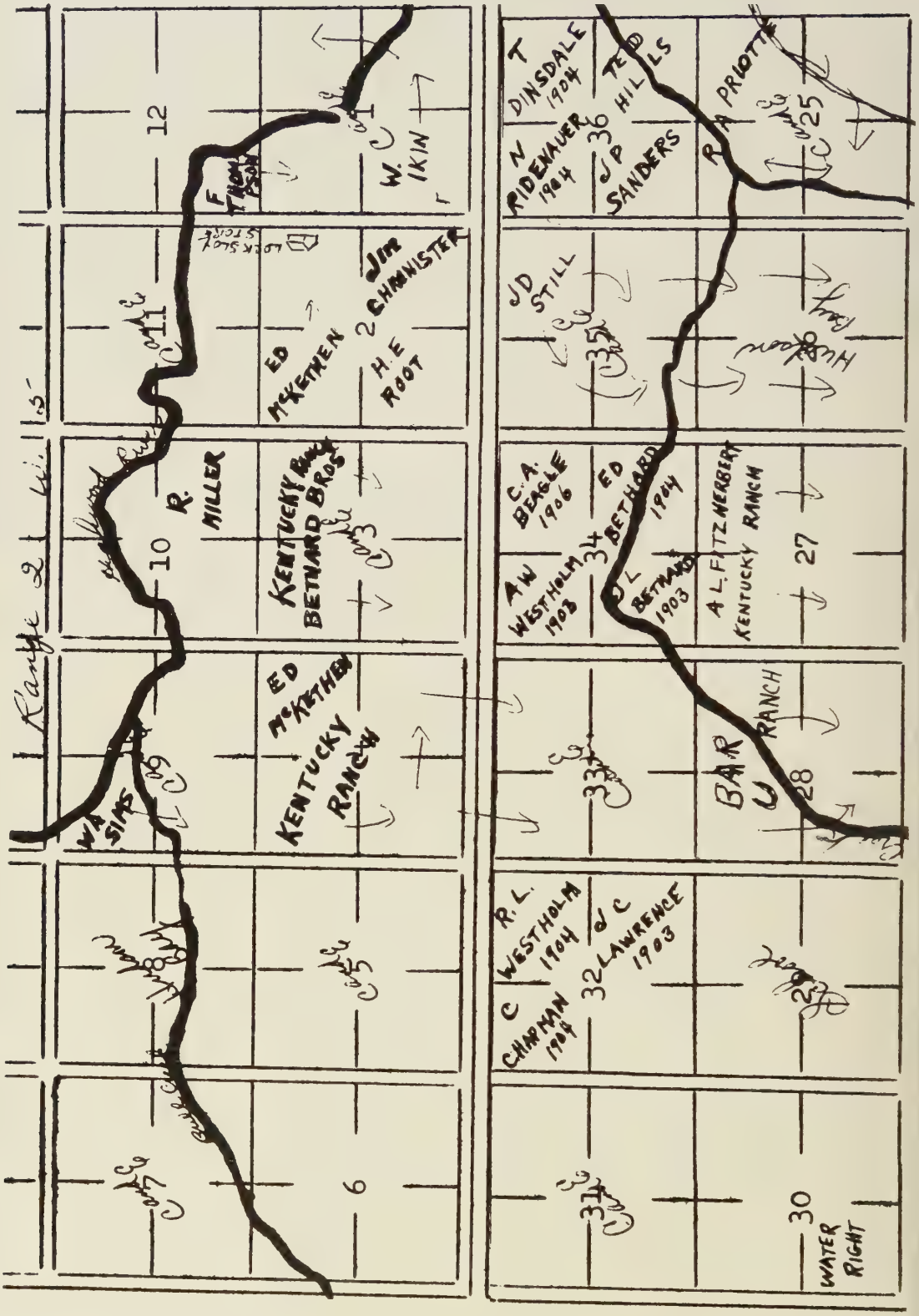
WITH DATES IN WHICH TITLE WAS ISSUED

COMPILED BY,

LOLA HANSON

FROM PROVINCIAL LAND TITLES

OFFICE RECORDS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F THOMPSON
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ED McKETHEN
Jim CHANNISTER
H.E ROOT
R. MILLER
KENTUCKY RANCH BETHARD BROS
ED McKETHEN KENTUCKY RANCH
W.A SIMS
T DINSDALE 1904
N RIDENAUER 1904
TED HILLS
J.P SANDERS
R.A PRIOTTE
J.D STILL
C.A. BEAGLE 1906
ED BETHARD 1904
A.W WESTHOLM 1903
J.L BETHARD 1903
A.L. FITZ HERBERT KENTUCKY RANCH
BAR U RANCH
R.L. WESTHOLM 1904
C CHAPMAN 1904
d C LAWRENCE 1903
WATER RIGHT
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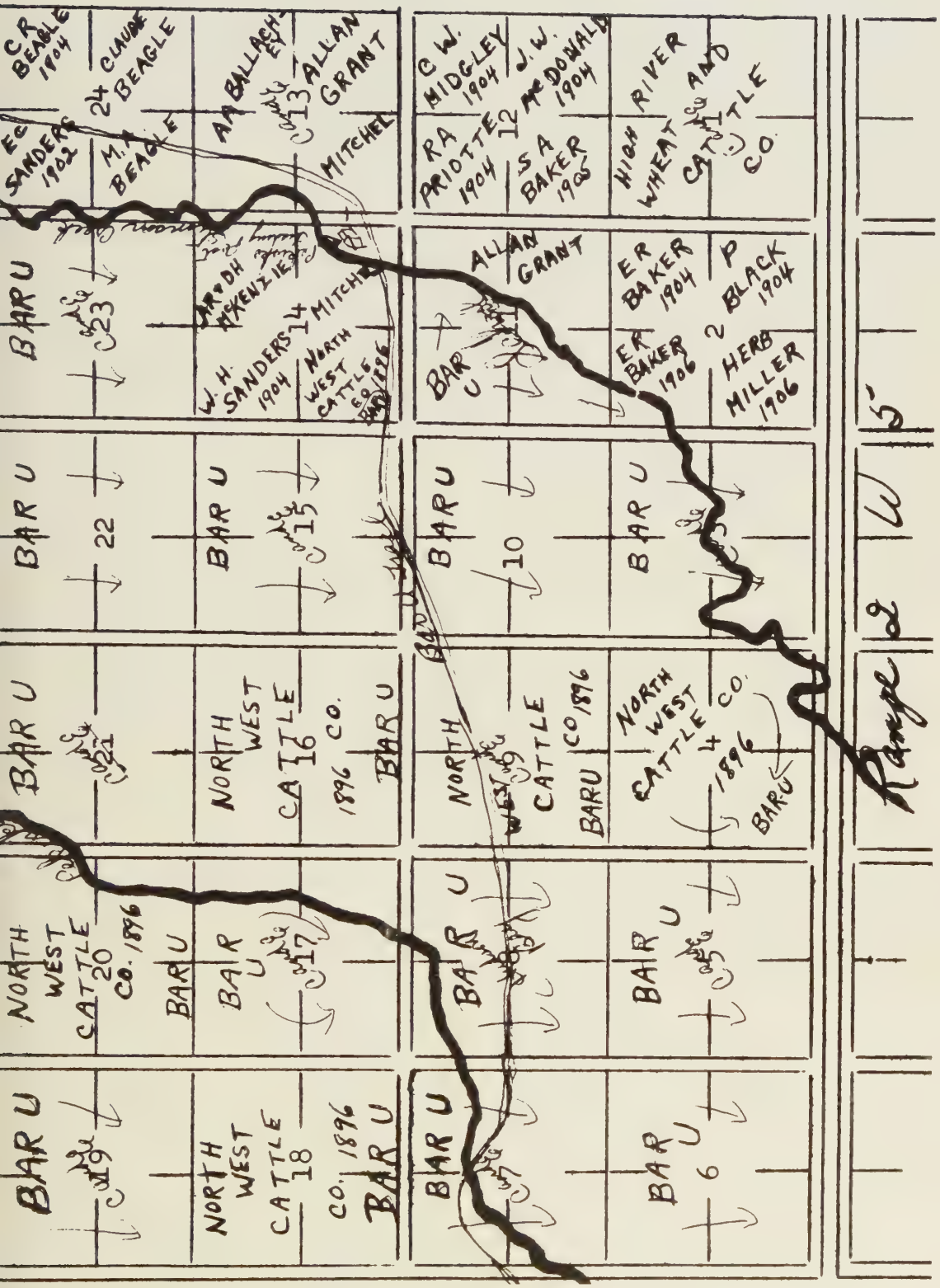
C R BEAGLE 1904
24 CLAUDE BEAGLE
E C SANDERS 1902
M. A. BEAGLE
A A BALLACH-EY
13 ALLAN GRANT
MITCHEL
C W. MIDGLEY 1904
J. W. McDONALD 1904
RA PRIOTTE 1904
12
SA BAKER 1905
HIGH RIVER WHEAT AND CATTLE CO.
BAR U
23
CARDH McKENZIE
W. H. SANDERS 1904
14 MITCHEL
NORTH WEST CATTLE CO. 1896
ALLAN GRANT
ER BAKER 1904
P BLACK 1904
ER BAKER 1906
2
HERB MILLER 1906
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NORTH WEST CATTLE 16 CO. 1896
NORTH WEST CATTLE 9 CO. 1896
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NORTH WEST CATTLE 20 CO. 1896
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NORTH WEST CATTLE 18 CO. 1896
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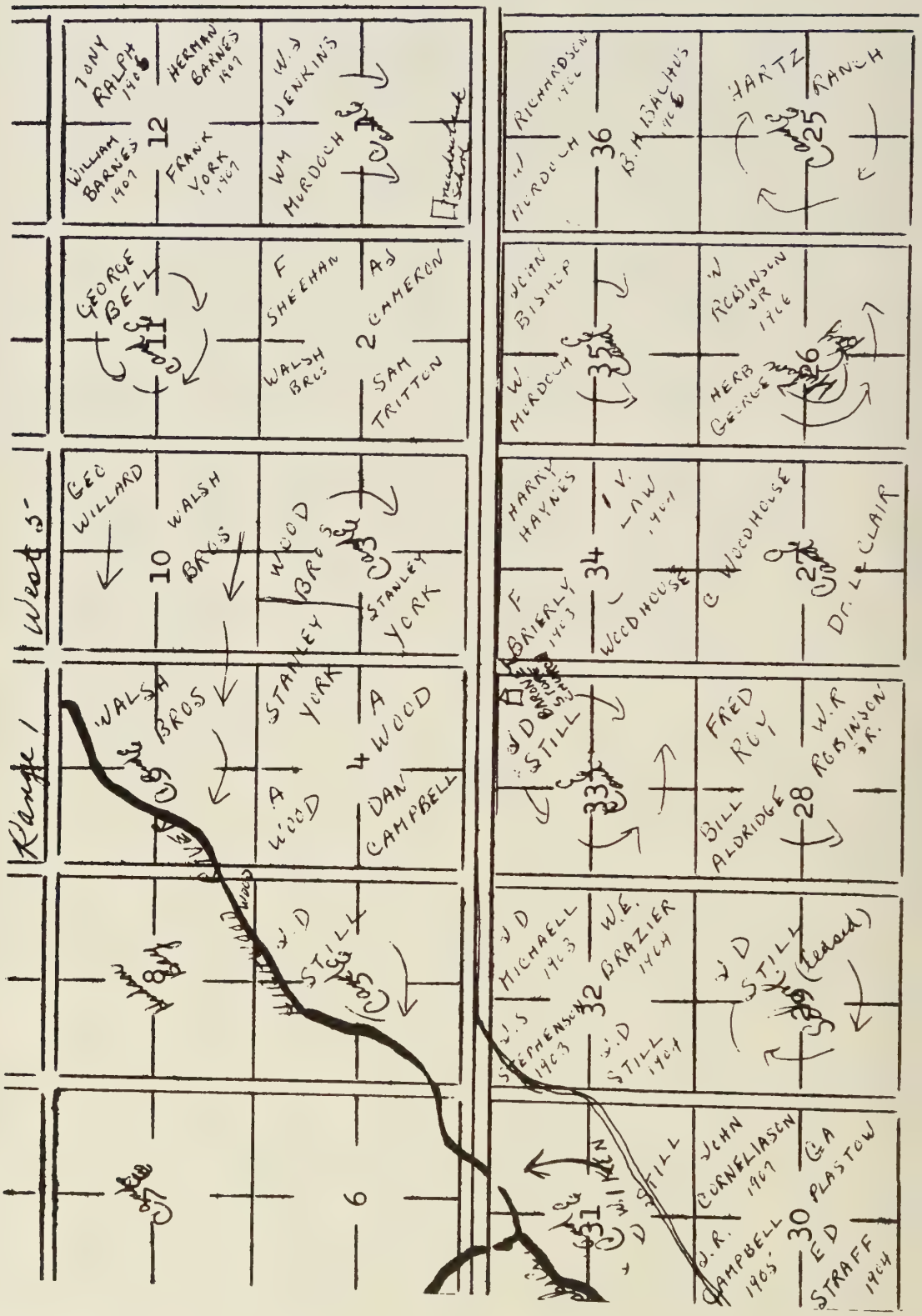
Range 1 West 3
TONY RALPH 1906
HERMAN BARNES 1907
W. J JENKINS
WILLIAM BARNES 1907
FRANK YORK 1907
WM MURDOCH
12
GEORGE BELL
F SHEEHAN
A J CAMERON
WALSH BROS
SAM TRITTON
11
2
GEO WILLARD
WALSH BROS
WOOD BROS
STANLEY YORK
10
3
WALSH BROS
STANLEY YORK
A WOOD
A WOOD
DAN CAMPBELL
9
4
W D STILL
8
5
6
RICHARDSON 1906
W MURDOCH
B. A BALLHUS 1906
HARTZ RANCH
36
25
JOHN BISHOP
W ROBINSON JR 1906
W MURDOCH
HERB GEORGE
35
26
HARRY HAYNES
I V. LAW 1907
F BRIERLY 1903
WOODHOUSE
C WOODHOUSE
DR. LE CLAIR
34
27
W D STILL
FRED ROY
W.R ROBINSON JR.
BILL ALDRIDGE
33
28
W D MICHAELL 1903
W.E. BRAZIER 1904
E.S STEPHENSON 1903
W.D STILL 1904
W D STILL (leased)
32
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JOHN CORNELIASON 1907
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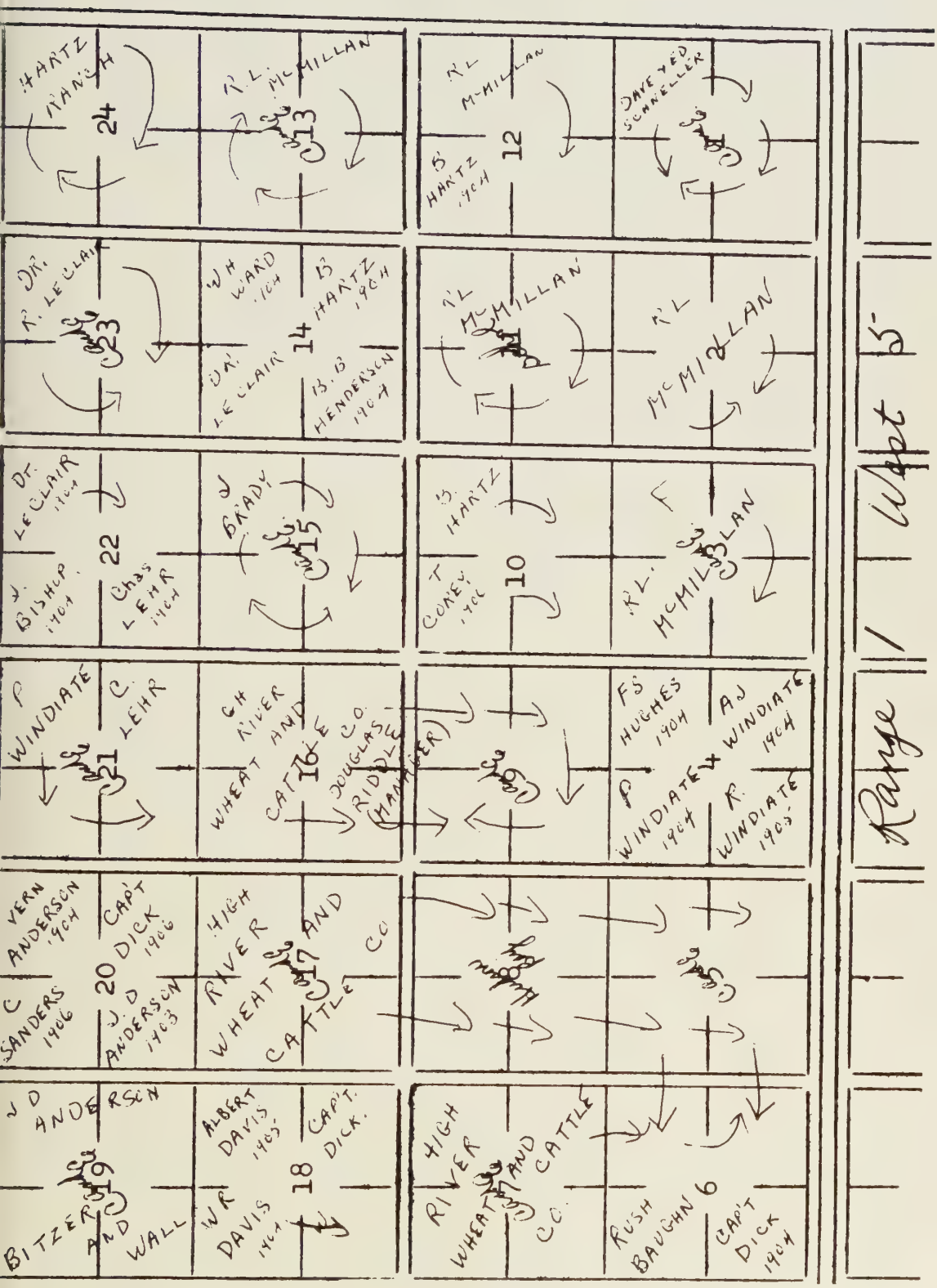
31
30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DAVE YED SCHNELLER
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23
W.H. WARD 1904
B. HARTZ 1904
DR. LE CLAIR
14
B.B. HENDERSON 1904
R.L. McMILLAN
R.L. McMILLAN
DR. LECLAIR 1904
J. BISHOP 1904
22
Chas LEHR 1904
J. BRADY
15
B. HARTZ
T. COREY 1904
10
F. R.L. McMILLAN
P. WINDIATE
C. LEHR
21
G.H. RIVER AND WHEAT CATTLE CO.
16
DOUGLAS RIDDLE (MANAGER)
F.S. HUGHES 1904
A.J. WINDIATE 1904
P. WINDIATE 1904
R. WINDIATE 1903
VERN ANDERSON 1904
C. SANDERS 1906
20
CAPT DICK 1906
J.D. ANDERSON 1903
HIGH RIVER WHEAT AND CATTLE CO.
17
J.D. ANDERSON
BITZER AND WALL
19
ALBERT DAVIS 1903
W.R. DAVIS 1904
18
CAPT. DICK.
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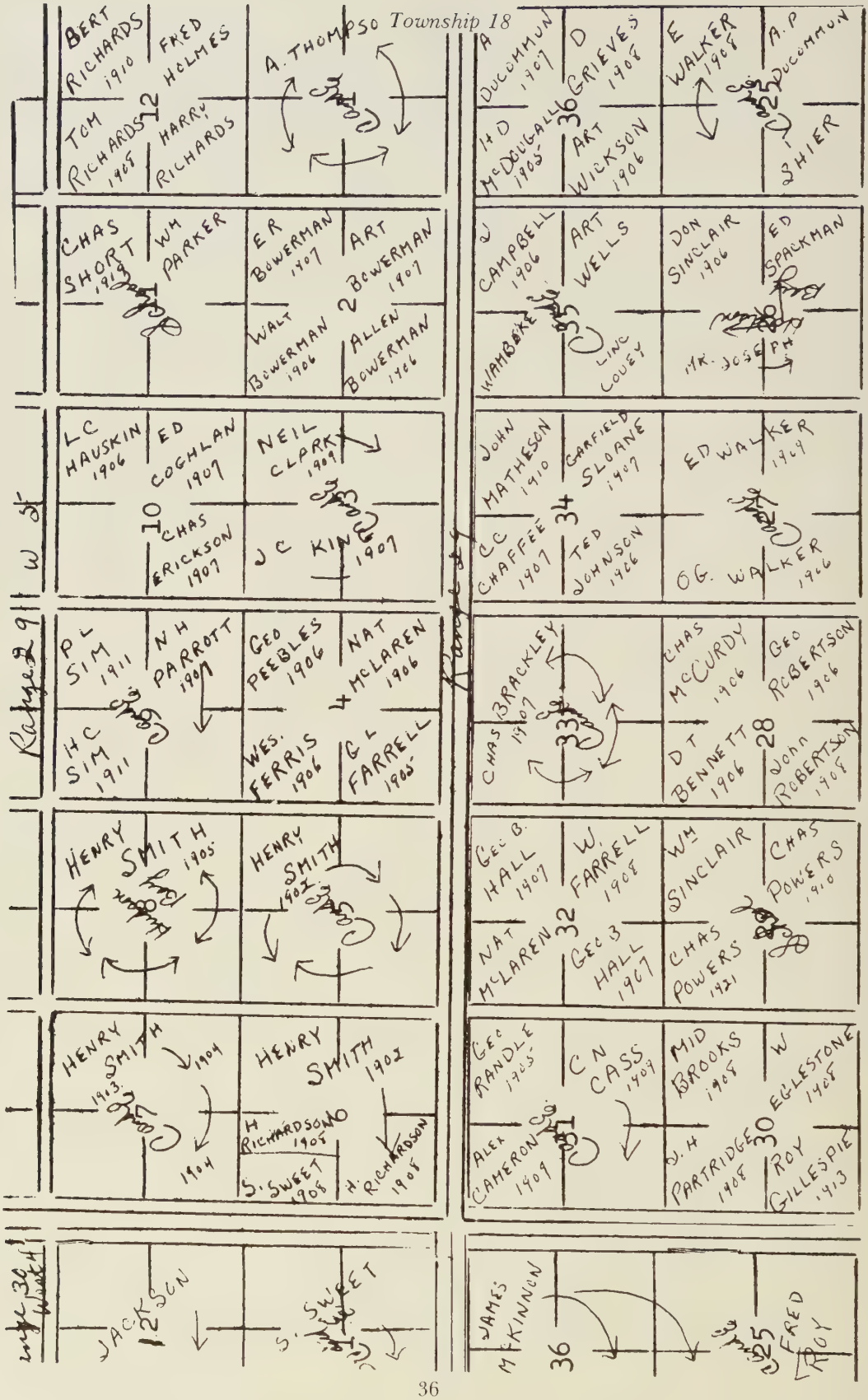
RUSH BAUGHN
6
CAPT DICK 1904
Range 1 West 5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FRED HOLMES
TOM RICHARDS 1905
HARRY RICHARDS
12
A. THOMPSO
CHAS SHORT 1909
WM PARKER
E R BOWERMAN 1907
ART BOWERMAN 1907
WALT BOWERMAN 1906
ALLEN BOWERMAN 1906
2
LC HAUSKIN 1906
ED COGHLAN 1907
NEIL CLARK 1909
CHAS ERICKSON 1907
10
J C KING 1907
PL SIM 1911
NH PARROTT 1907
GEO PEEBLES 1906
NAT McLAREN 1906
HC SIM 1911
WES. FERRIS 1906
GL FARRELL 1905
4
HENRY SMITH 1905
HENRY SMITH 1902
HENRY SMITH 1913
1904
HENRY SMITH 1902
H RICHARDSON 1905
S. SWEET 1908
A. RICHARDSON 1908
JACKSON
S. SWEET
A DUCOMMUN 1907
D GRIEVES 1908
E WALKER 1908
A.P DUCOMMON
HD McDOUGALL 1905
ART WICKSON 1906
36
SHIER
J CAMPBELL 1906
ART WELLS
DON SINCLAIR 1906
ED SPACKMAN
WAHBAKE
LINC COUEY
MR. JOSEPH
JOHN MATHESON 1910
GARFIELD SLOANE 1907
ED WALKER 1909
CC CHAFFEE 1907
TED JOHNSON 1906
34
OG. WALKER 1906
CHAS BRACKLEY 1907
33
CHAS McCURDY 1906
GEO ROBERTSON 1906
DT BENNETT 1906
28
John ROBERTSON 1908
GEO B. HALL 1907
W. FARRELL 1908
WM SINCLAIR
CHAS POWERS 1910
NAT McLAREN
GEO 3 HALL 1907
CHAS POWERS 1921
32
GEO RANDLE 1905
C N CASS 1909
MID BROOKS 1908
W EGLESTONE 1908
ALEX CAMERON 1909
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JAMES McKINNON
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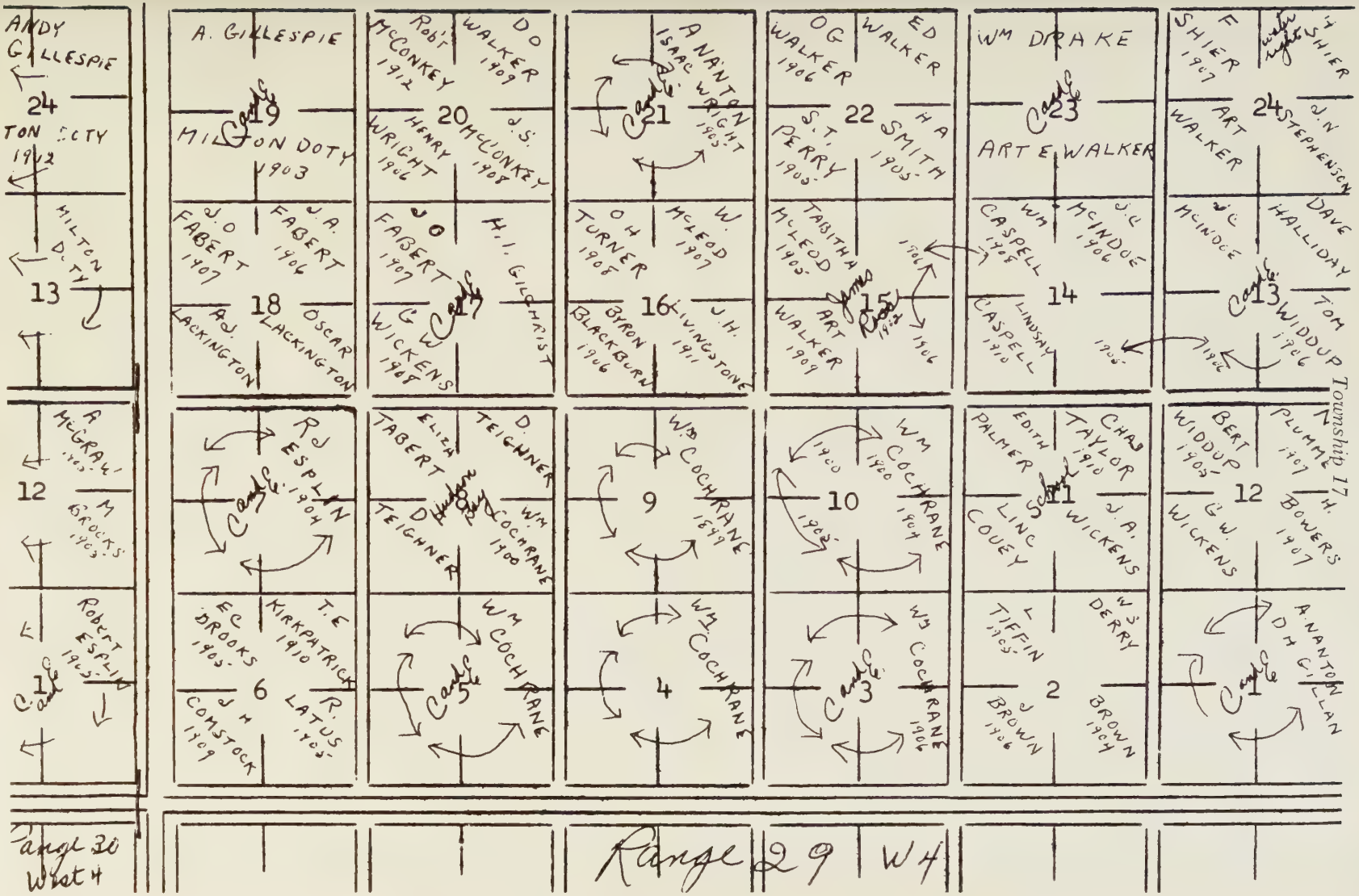
FRED ROY
25
Range 29 W 4th
Range 28 W 4th


Township 17
Range 29 W4
Range 30 West 4
24
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24
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12
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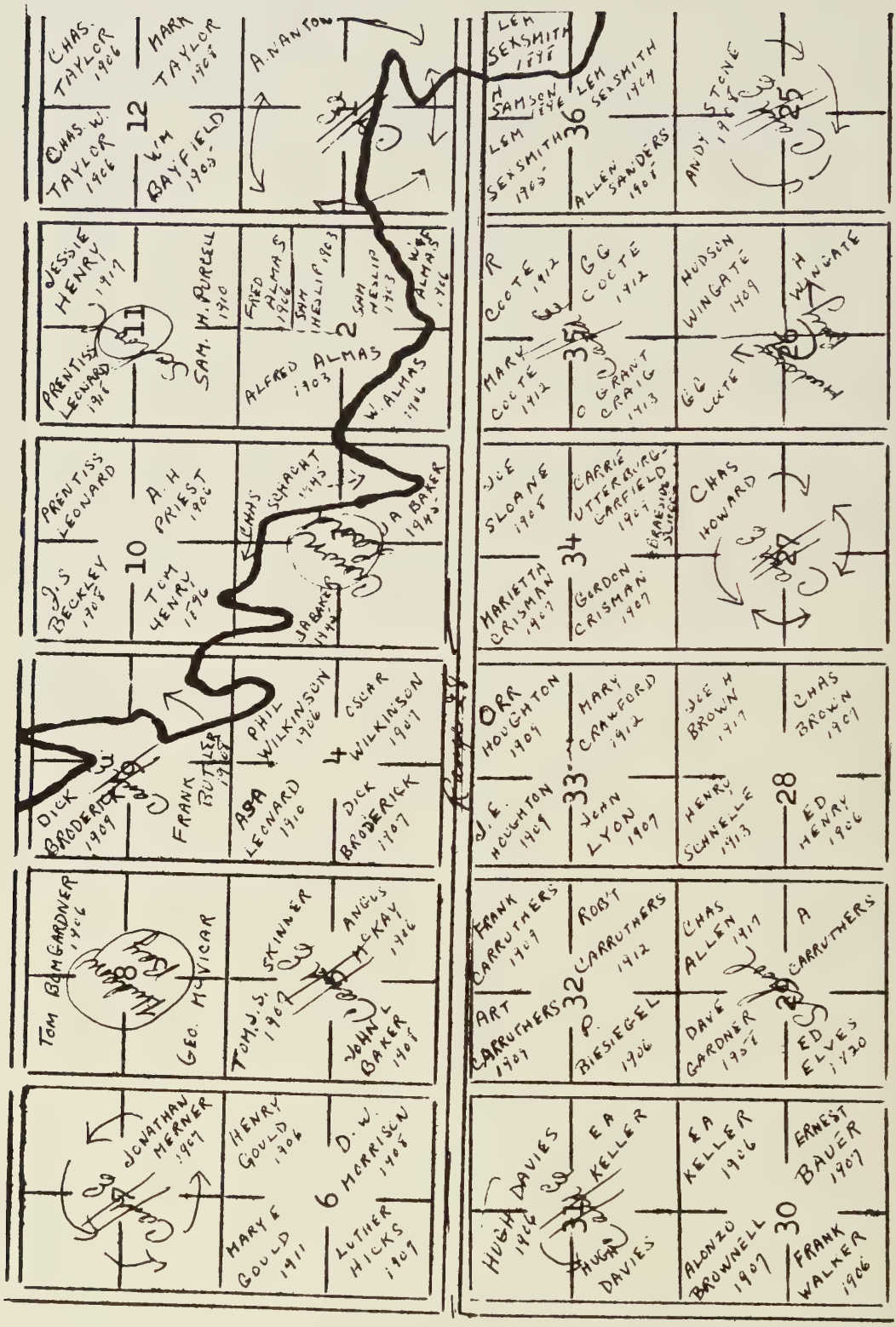
2
1
A. GILLESPIE
MILTON DOTY 1903
Robt McCONKEY 1912
D O WALKER 1909
HENRY WRIGHT 1906
J.S. McCONKEY 1908
A NANTON
ISAAC WRIGHT 1903
O G WALKER 1906
ED WALKER
S.T. PERRY 1903
H A SMITH 1903
WM DRAKE
ART E WALKER
F SHIER 1907
J SHIER
ART WALKER
J.N STEPHENSON
DAVE HALLIDAY
TOM WIDDUP 1906
J.O FABERT 1907
J.A. FABERT 1906
J O FABERT 1907
H.I. GILMAIST
G W WICKENS 1908
A.J. LACKINGTON
OSCAR LACKINGTON
O H TURNER 1908
W. McLEOD 1907
BYRON BLACKBURN 1906
J.H. LIVINGSTONE 1911
TABITHA McLEOD 1903
ART WALKER 1909
WM CASPELL 1908
J.L McINDOE 1906
LINDSAY CASPELL 1910
J.C McINDOE
BERT WIDDUP 1903
PLUMMER 1907
H. BOWERS 1907
G.W. WICKENS
A McGRAW 1903
M BROOKS 1903
Robert ESPLIN 1903
RJ ESPLIN 1904
ELIZA TABERT
D. TEIGNER
D TEIGNER
WM COCHRANE 1900
WM COCHRANE 1899
WM COCHRANE 1900
WM COCHRANE 1904
EDITH PALMER
CHAS TAYLOR 1910
LINC COUEY
J.A. WICKENS
EC BROOKS 1903
T.E KIRKPATRICK 1910
J H COMSTOCK 1909
R. LATUS 1903
WM COCHRANE
WM COCHRANE
WM COCHRANE 1906
L TIFFIN 1903
W.S DERRY
J BROWN 1906
BROWN 1904
A.NANTON
D H GILLAN
Cash
School


CHAS. TAYLOR 1906
MARK TAYLOR 1908
A. NANTON
CHAS. W. TAYLOR 1906
12
WM BAYFIELD 1903
JESSIE HENRY 1917
PRENTISS LEONARD 1916
11
SAM. H. PURCELL 1910
FRED ALMAS 1906
SAM HESLIP 1903
2
SAM HESLIP 1903
ALMAS 1906
ALFRED ALMAS 1903
W. ALMAS 1906
PRENTISS LEONARD
A. H PRIEST 1906
CHAS SCHACHT 1943
J. A BAKER 1943
J. S BECKLEY 1908
10
TOM HENRY 1896
J. A BAKER 1943
DICK BRODERICK 1909
FRANK BUTLER 1908
PHIL WILKINSON 1906
4
OSCAR WILKINSON 1907
ASA LEONARD 1910
DICK BRODERICK 1907
TOM BAMGARDNER 1906
GEO. H VICAR
SKINNER
ANGUS McKAY 1906
TOM J. S. 1907
JOHN L BAKER 1908
JONATHAN MERNER 1907
HENRY GOULD 1906
D. W. MORRISON 1908
MARY E GOULD 1911
6
LUTHER HICKS 1907
LEM SEXSMITH 1896
H SAMSON 1896
LEM SEXSMITH 1909
36
LEM SEXSMITH 1909
ALLEN SANDERS 1908
ANDY STONE 1908
25
R COOTE 1912
GG COOTE 1912
HUDSON WINGATE 1909
H WINGATE
MARY COOTE 1912
35
C GRANT CRAIG 1913
GG COOTE
JOE SLOANE 1908
CARRIE UTTERBURG-GARFIELD 1907
CHAS HOWARD
34
MARIETTA CRISMAN 1907
GORDON CRISMAN 1907
ORR HOUGHTON 1909
MARY CRAWFORD 1912
JOE H BROWN 1917
CHAS BROWN 1907
J. E. HOUGHTON 1909
33
JOHN LYON 1907
HENRY SCHNELLE 1913
28
ED HENRY 1906
FRANK CARRUTHERS 1909
ROB'T CARRUTHERS 1912
CHAS ALLEN 1917
A CARRUTHERS
ART CARRUTHERS 1909
32
P. BIESIEGEL 1906
DAVE GARDNER 1907
29
ED ELVES 1920
HUGH DAVIES 1906
EA KELLER
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ERNEST BAUER 1907
HUGH DAVIES
ALONZO BROWNELL 1907
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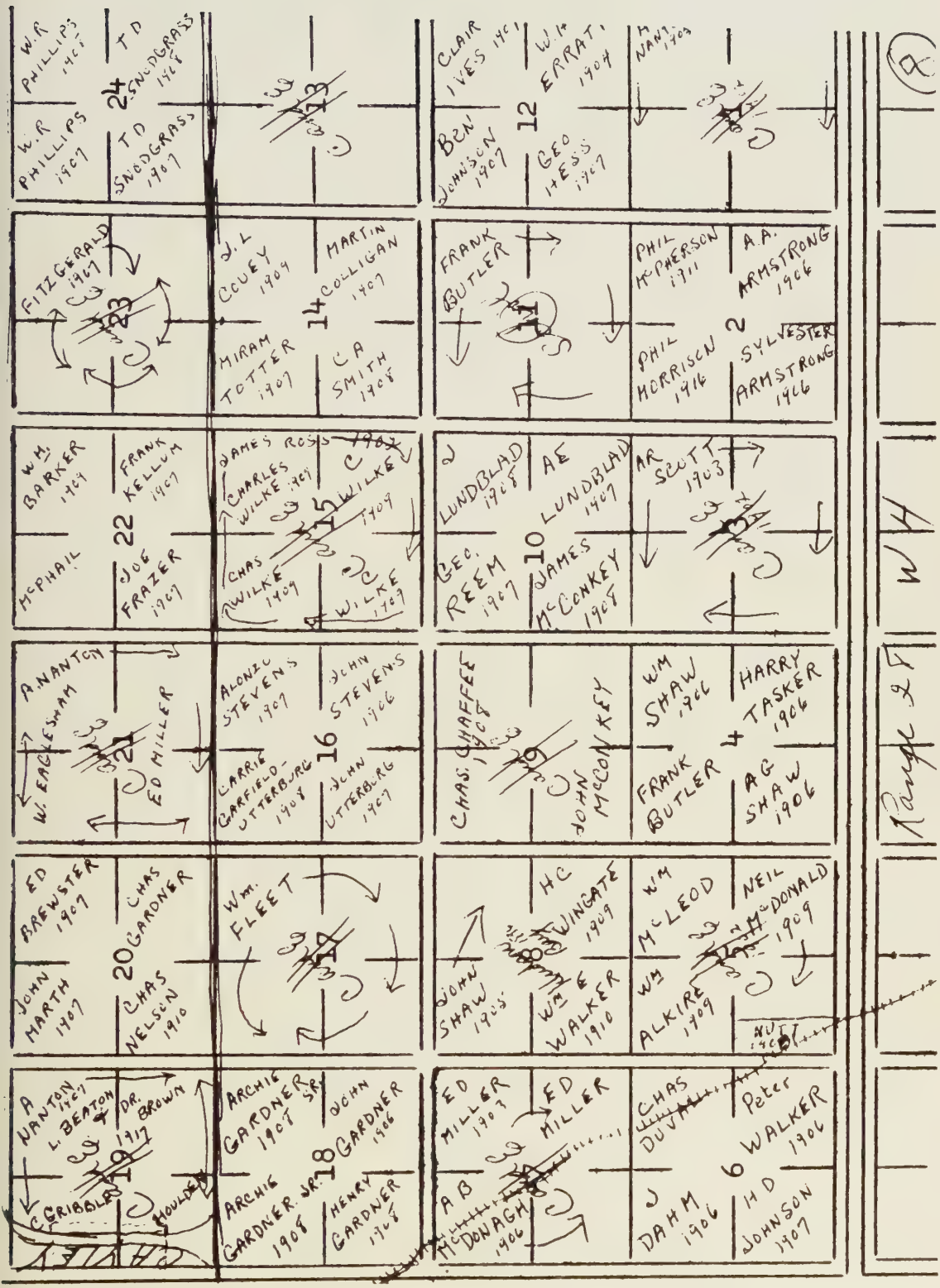
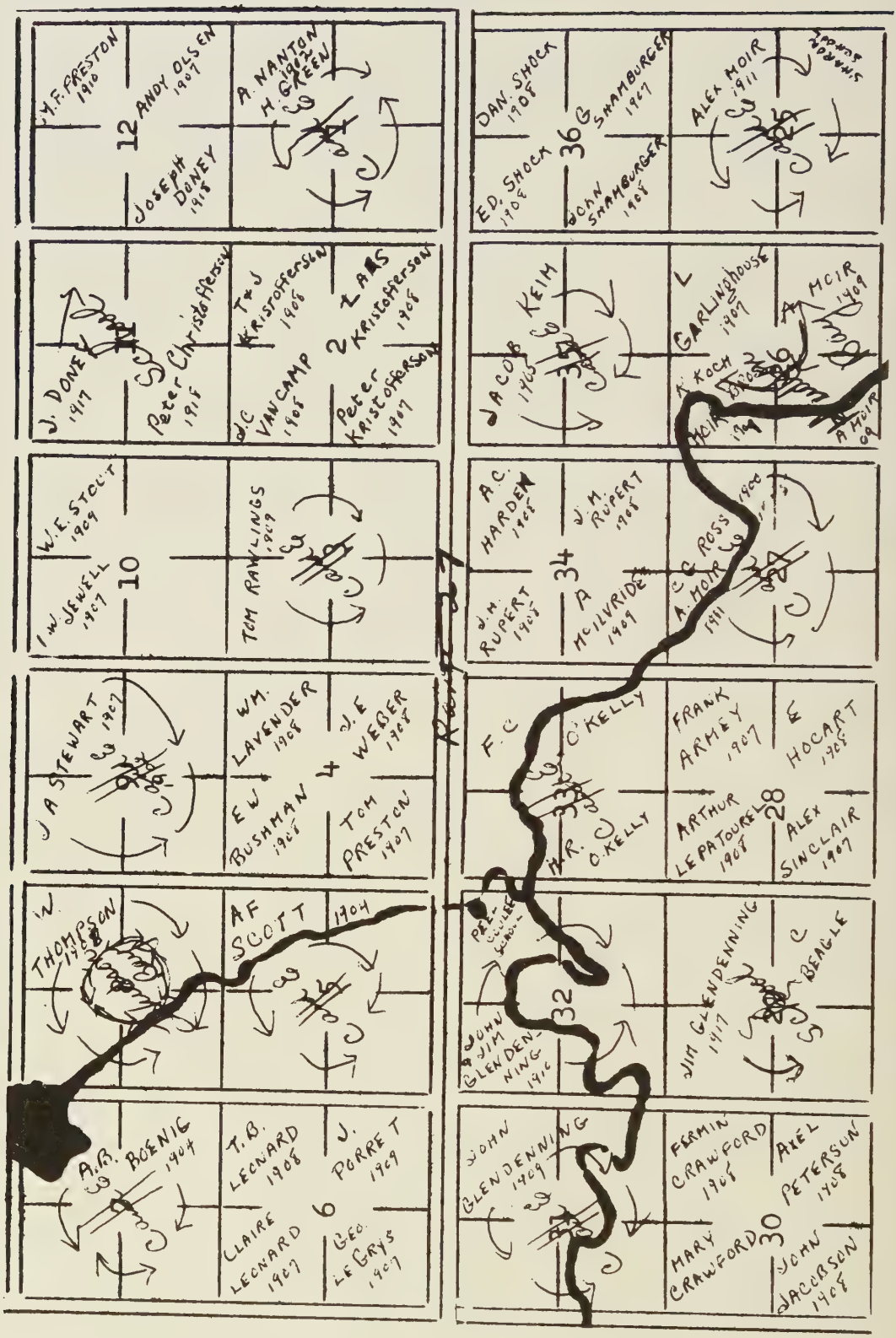
FRANK WALKER 1906


W.R. PHILLIPS 1907
T.D. SNODGRASS 1908
24
W.R. PHILLIPS 1907
T.D. SNODGRASS 1907
13
CLAIR IVES 1907
W.H. ERRATT 1907
H. NANT 1908
12
BEN JOHNSON 1907
GEO. HESS 1907
FITZGERALD 1907
23
J.L. COUEY 1909
MARTIN COLLIGAN 1907
14
MIRAM TOTTER 1907
C.A. SMITH 1908
FRANK BUTLER
11
PHIL McPHERSON 1911
A.A. ARMSTRONG 1906
2
PHIL HORRISON 1916
SYLVESTER ARMSTRONG 1906
W.H. BARKER 1909
FRANK KELLUM 1907
22
McPHAIL
JOE FRAZER 1907
JAMES ROSS 1907
CHARLES WILKE 1909
C. WILKE 1909
15
CHAS. WILKE 1909
WILKE 1909
J. LUNDBLAD 1908
A.E. LUNDBLAD 1907
10
GEO. REEM 1907
JAMES McCONKEY 1907
A.R. SCOTT 1903
3
A. NANTON
W. EAGLESHAM
21
ED MILLER
ALONZO STEVENS 1907
JOHN STEVENS 1906
16
CARRIE GARFIELD-UTTERBURG 1907
JOHN UTTERBURG 1907
CHAS. GHAFFEE 1908
9
JOHN McCONKEY
WM. SHAW 1906
HARRY TASKER 1906
4
FRANK BUTLER
A.G. SHAW 1906
ED BREWSTER 1907
CHAS. GARDNER
20
JOHN MARTH 1907
CHAS. NELSON 1910
WM. FLEET
17
H.C. WINGATE 1909
8
JOHN SHAW 1905
WM. & WALKER 1910
WM. McLEOD
WM. ALKIRE 1909
NEIL McDONALD 1909
A. NANTON 1909
L. BEATON
DR. BROWN 1917
19
C. GRIBBLE
HOULDER
ARCHIE GARDNER 1907 SR.
JOHN GARDNER 1906
18
ARCHIE GARDNER JR. 1908
HENRY GARDNER 1907
ED MILLER 1907
ED MILLER
CHAS. DUVAL
Peter WALKER 1906
6
A.B. McDONAGH 1906
J. DAHM 1906
H.D. JOHNSON 1907
Range 25 W.4


M.F. PRESTON 1910
12
ANDY OLSEN 1907
JOSEPH DONEY 1918
A. NANTON 1907
H. GREEN
J. DONEY 1917
Peter Christofferson 1915
T+J KRISTOFFERSON 1908
J.C VANCAMP 1908
2
L ARS KRISTOFFERSON 1908
Peter KRISTOFFERSON 1907
W.E. STOUT 1909
I.W. JEWELL 1907
10
TOM RAWLINGS 1909
J A STEWART 1907
WM. LAVENDER 1908
J.E WEBER 1908
E W BUSHMAN 1908
4
TOM PRESTON 1907
W. THOMPSON 1908
AF SCOTT
1904
A.B. BOENIG 1904
T.B. LEONARD 1908
J. PORRET 1909
CLAIRE LEONARD 1909
6
GEO. LE GRYS 1909
DAN. SHOCK 1908
36
SHAMBURGER 1907
ALEX MOIR 1911
SHAMBURGER
ED. SHOCK 1908
JOHN SHAMBURGER 1908
JACOB KEIM 1908
L
GARLINGHOUSE 1909
A. MOIR 1909
A. KOCH
A. MOIR 09
A.C. HARDEN 1908
J.M. RUPERT 1908
34
J.M. RUPERT 1908
P. McILVRIDE 1909
C.C ROSS 1909
A. MOIR 1911
F.C O'KELLY
FRANK ARMEY 1907
E HOCART 1908
H.R. O'KELLY
ARTHUR LEPATOURELL 1908
28
ALEX SINCLAIR 1907
PER. CULVER
JOHN & JIM GLENDENNING 1916
32
JIM GLENDENNING 1917
C BEAGLE
JOHN GLENDENNING 1909
FERMIN CRAWFORD 1908
AXEL PETERSON 1908
MARY CRAWFORD
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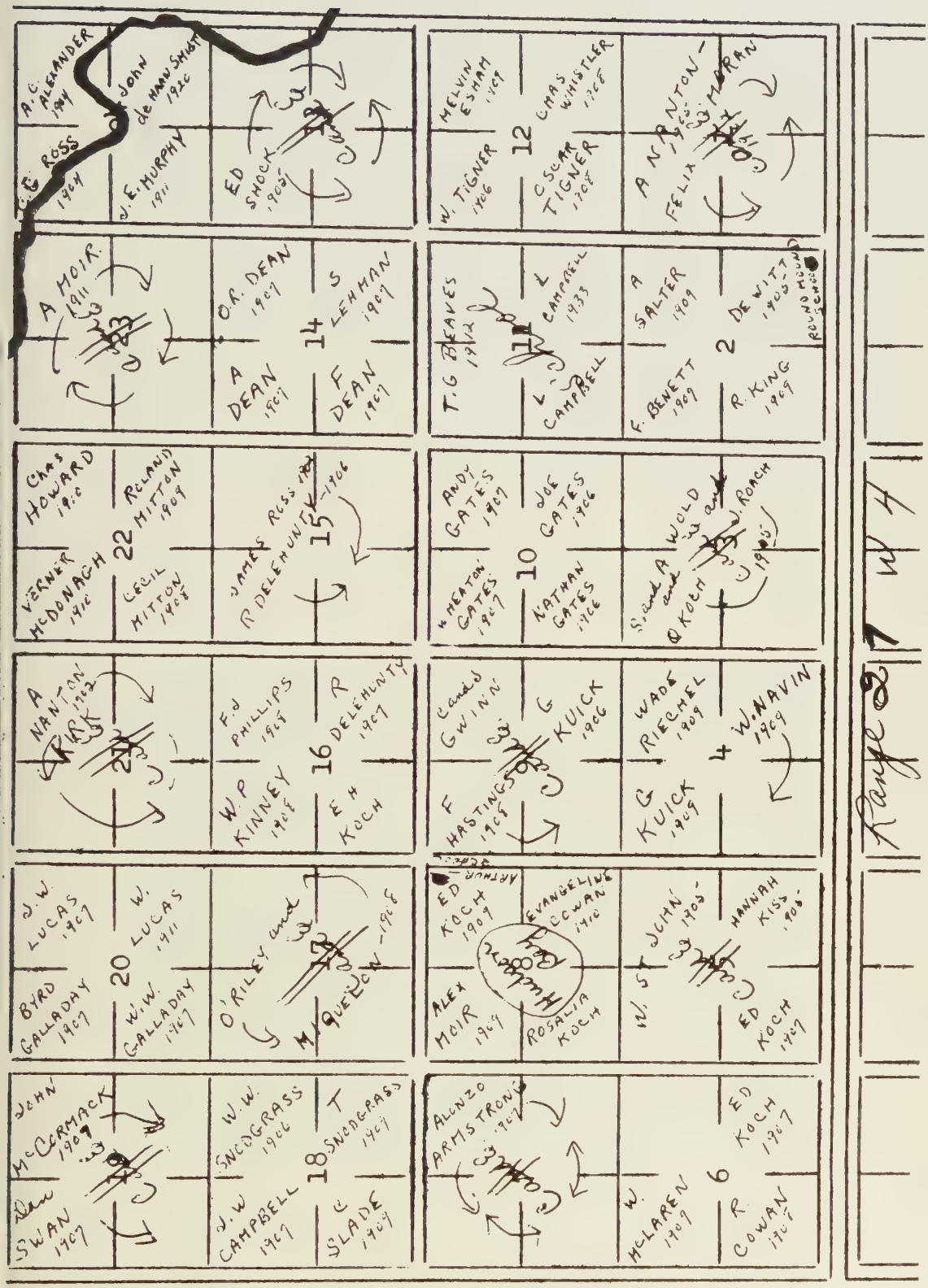
JOHN JACOBSON 1908


A. G. ALEXANDER 1909
John de HAAN SHORT 1926
C. G. ROSS 1909
J. E. HURPHY 1911
ED SHOCK 1909
MELVIN ESMAN 1909
CHAS WHISTLER 1908
W. TIGNER 1906
OSCAR TIGNER 1908
A. NANTON 1909
FELIX MORAN
12
A MOIR 1911
O.R. DEAN 1909
S LEHMAN 1909
A DEAN 1909
F DEAN 1909
14
T. G. BEAVES 1908
L. CAMPBELL 1933
L. CAMPBELL
A SALTER 1909
F. BENETT 1909
DE WITT 1909
ROUND MOUND
R. KING 1909
2
CHAS HOWARD 1910
RELAND MITTON 1909
VERNER McDONAGH 1910
CECIL MITTON 1909
22
JAMES ROSS 1906
R DELEHUNTY
15
ANDY GATES 1909
JOE GATES 1906
W. HEATON GATES 1909
NATHAN GATES 1906
10
S. and A. WOLD and O. KOCH
J. ROACH 1909
A NANTON 1909
KIRK
27
F.J PHILLIPS 1909
W.P KINNEY 1908
16
R DELEHUNTY 1909
E H KOCH
Canada GWINN
G KUICK 1906
F HASTINGS 1909
WADE RIECHEL 1909
G KUICK 1909
4
W. NAVIN 1909
J. W. LUCAS 1909
W. LUCAS 1911
BYRD GALLADAY 1909
W.W. GALLADAY 1909
20
O'RILEY and M. QUEICOW 1908
ARTHUR
ED KOCH 1909
EVANGELINE COWAN 1910
ALEX MOIR 1909
ROSALIA KOCH
N. ST JOHN 1909
HANNAH KISS 1909
ED KOCH 1909
JOHN McCORMACK 1909
SWAN 1909
W.W. SNEDGRASS 1906
J.W CAMPBELL 1909
18
T SNEDGRASS 1909
C SLADE 1909
ALONZO ARMSTRONG 1909
W. McLAREN 1909
6
ED KOCH 1909
R COWAN 1909
Range 2 W 4

FORM K.

This Certificate is not valid unless countersigned by the Commissioner of Dominion Lands or Member of the Dominion Lands Board.

14384

Certificate of Recommendation for Homestead Patent.

720082

Department of the Interior,

Dominion Lands Office,

190

I Certify that Philip Roy Wilkinson

who is the holder of a Homestead Entry for North East ¼

of Section Number 4 Township 18 Range 28

West of the 2d Meridian, has complied with the provisions of the law required to be conformed to, in order to entitle him to receive a patent for such Homestead, and that I have recommended the issue of such patent.

Countersigned at Ottawa, this 26 day of March 1906

J R Bunge
Commissioner of Dominion Lands.

Local Agent.

Wilkinson Certificate of homestead.

Let Pass No. 10

(Revised Statutes, Cap. 32, Sec. 36.)

Entry No. 3017

Customs Canada
Jun 22 1904
Lethbridge, Alta.

Custom House,

Port of 189

To all Officers of Her Majesty's Customs.

PERMIT C. Sleeman to Pass to Lethbridge with 6 horses by Highway with the following described goods, having been reported and entered at this office, viz:

1 Mare
1 Horse
2 old saddles

C. O. Keep this

This Permit will protect the goods only while between the places and by the route or conveyance named and during the time necessary to effect the transit and is good for no other purpose.

Collector.

Sleeman Border entry receipt.

The Frank Shier Family

Frank Shier was born in Orillia Ontario on January 1st, 1876, in the same house his father was born. He was second in a family of three girls and eight boys. The parents moved to a homestead near Bracebridge. Frank left the farm at the age of 16 to work as a logger in Ontario and Wisconsin. In 1897 he worked in his uncle Arthur Taylor's soft drink bottling factory in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. This initial contact with the wonders of steam power and the intracicies of machinery stayed with him. Many useful purposes were made of this knowledge in later years when he farmed.

In 1898 he and Percy Taylor made their way to Lake of the Woods, joined a railway construction crew headed for Great Falls Montana, left his outfit for Lethbridge and eventually the High River district, arriving on May 12, 1899. To make sure he 'ate regular' he worked for a time logging on Sheep Creek for Lineham, then went haying for Billy McDougall. It rained steadily all the month of August but along in September they got round to their haying.

Frank filed on the Shier homestead in 1902. There were few fences in those days, but as settlers began coming in and staking land, the old cross country trails became disorganized, and people had to adjust themselves to the continually changing routes. Until 1947 traces of the old Macleod trail that was part of the Fort Benton to Edmonton road, used by freighters, were still evident on his property.

Mr. Shier was working for Eckford when the long remembered snow storm of May 16, 1903 struck. It lasted for three days. There were tremendous snow banks - some 14 feet high. Horses couldn't get through and a great deal of stock was lost. 1910 was the dry year. There was no rain for 13 months, but heavy dews and subsoil moisture saw the farmers through.

G. D. Sloane broke the first land on Mr. Shier's homestead. The first wheat crop Frank remembered seeing was on the Campbell place. Farmers gave up growing fall wheat because it winter killed. The last big fall wheat crops were in 1911. His wheat crop went 35 bushels to the acre that year, and oats over 100 bushels.

In the old days Mr. Shier saw as many as 8000 head of cattle held on Provincial Govt. property between Cayley and the homestead. The stock was driven in by four or five outfits and held as long as two weeks before shipment was made. Later Herb Shier bought this Prov. Govt. land.

Three of Mr. Shier's brothers came west. Rupert, the youngest, worked around Cayley and Nanton, later going to Fernie in the lumbering industry. He died of pneumonia and is buried at Cayley. Another brother, Osborne, worked with Frank, farmed just south of Nanton, but left the district for Wisconsin. Ollie had a farm at Vulcan.

Frank Shier and Christina Robertson were married in Calgary, November 15, 1905 by Dean Paget. Mrs. Shier was born in Wingham Ontario September 19, 1882. Her brother Will Robertson came to Calgary for health reasons in 1903, worked for the Herald and filed on two quarters east of Nanton, sight unseen. Their father, Billy Robertson, was a carpet weaver. Their mother was deceased (May 10, 1898) and when the only son left for the west, Billy Robertson sold his business, bought six cows and arrived in Calgary with these and household effects in March, 1904. He continued on to Nanton, driving the twenty miles to the farm

by wagon. Christina left her work as librarian to accompany a younger sister, May, on the trip west, arriving some two months later. When Will Robertson died in 1906, the rest of the family, Millie and Grant Craig, their son Charles, and the youngest sister, Una, moved from Wingham to the homestead.

The original building site of the Shier place was on the south road. Three sons and eight years later, the present site was chosen. The old house which had also served as a part time granary, was moved and added to, to make the present home. One neighbor was Art Walker, a brother of Frank Walker, who lived on the Butler place. This land was later farmed by Jarbones, Bicknells and McCombs. Others in the district were the Wicksons, the Coueys and the Art Wells. W. B. Davis lived on the present Sloane place. The Burns family lived here before it was bought by Sloanes.

Varieties of crops - peas, flax, fescue besides the usual grains, were tried successfully by Mr. Shier. He won 1st prize at the Edmonton Seed fair in 1927 for his field peas. Percheron horses were raised after purchasing a stallion from McKinnon for $3600. Later Mr. Shier had Clydes and Shires. Shorthorn cattle, Dartmoor ponies from the Prince of Wales stock, and sheep made up the other stock. The three sons exhibited stock and grain at the Nanton and High River fairs. Frank's last venture in buying horses was in 1941 when he bought 36 head of two year olds in Swift Current. Frank Jr. broke them and they were sold in Ontario.

Engines and machinery fascinated Mr. Shier. His first steam outfit was a Clayton Shuttleworth bought in 1914. During the ensuing years he surrounded himself with much equipment and innovations of his own. None of the family could keep up with the gadgets. You needed the blue prints to operate them and papers to turn the engines off, but Frank kept all these labor-saving devices running smoothly. Nor was the home neglected. Running water was in the house as early as 1912. The old washing machine and churn were driven by drive belts. These were later replaced by electric ones operated from his own plant. It so happened the potatoes were stored in the cellar when he put that particular engine there too. Though the family didn't notice it, friends found the potatoes quite unpalatable. Next spring, the engine was moved outside.

The first automobile was owned in 1918.

Frank Shier was an avid reader, an enthusiastic suporter of community projects, a member of the IOOF and Fern Leaf Rebekah Lodges, a member of the school board for 30 years serving several years as chairman. Mrs. Shier was a member of the Rebekah Lodge and interested in the Presbyterian church and community work.

Mrs. Shier died September 22, 1936 in Kalispell Montana. In 1945 Mr. Shier retired to Aldergrove, B.C. where he died June 20, 1948. Both are buried at Cayley.

There were five children born in the Shier family - Charlie, Herb, Frank, Kathleen and Alice. Charlie farmed east of Nanton for several years, later buying half of the home place. Herb married Anne Bale of Creston, B.C. August 2, 1939. They live on the home place farming the other half section of the original farm plus the adjoining Provincial Govt. land which Herb bought. Herb and Anne have three children, – Jack who married Phyllis Palmer farms at Cayley; Margaret Anne, now Mrs. Stan Horton at Cayley and Frances attending UAE in the faculty of Household Economics. There are four grandchildren.

Frank married Alberta Keller February 22, 1929. They now live at Cultus Lake, B.C. Their daughter Shirley Tolchard resides in Edmonton. There are six grandchildren.

Kathleen taught school, teaching for four years in the primary room of the Cayley school (1929-1933). Later she married Lyle Caspell in July, 1938. Calgary is their home.

Alice was also a teacher. She married James Claybourne George of Gem, Alberta, Aug. 4, 1942. They make their home on the ranch at Gem. There are five children.

Christine (Mrs. Chuck Andrus) of Hanna, a teacher, Jerrilyn attending UAC in the faculty of Science; Frank, Floyd and Wayne at home. There is one grandson.

Memories of the years we spent in Cayley are happy ones. We lived a pleasant, active life. We remember the skating parties on Silver Lake and the slough north of Frank Walkers; the debating teams, baseball and other school sporting events, the choir Miss McNichol had, attending both the Presbyterian and Methodist churches so we would be out at night, the Hallowe'en pranks, polo in Shier's field, horseback riding to shows in High River, pack trips and camping trips to the mountains, CGIT and Tuxis organizations, the walks to school joined by the Rasmussens, Sloanes and Wicksons.

Kathleen Caspell

Charles Lorne Tiffin

My father, Charles Lorne Tiffin, was born in Tupperville, Ontario, August 1st. 1879. Moved to Dresden as a young boy. He was a Massey-Harris agent in his youth. In 1900 he ventured as far west as Manitoba but returned to Ontario to prepare for a permanent trip west. It was in the spring of 1901 that he arrived in Cayley - High River district. He went on to Crows Nest Pass to work for P. Burns Company driving a livery team. This lasted only a few months when he left to return to High River. Dad's first Sunday dinner in this town was spent in the company of Dr. G. D. Stanley.

Mr. & Mrs. Lorne Tiffin.

During the fall and winter of 1901 - 1902 Lorne Tiffin worked for Billy McDougall. He filed on the homestead southwest of Cayley in the spring of 1901. This was the year of the big snow storm that left snow three feet deep on the level. Dad said it took all day haul a jag of hay a mile and a half. His step-father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Derry, came to the Cayley district on May 2nd, 1901. Grandfather Derry took up a homestead adjoining my father's property. Their combined efforts developed a large stock-ranch. Most of the horses were bought from Herbert Eckford of the Round T. On one particular event they trailed 125 head from Eckford's to our ranch, and Elbert Couey, a young boy at the time, was on that drive.

Dad was a cowboy at many of the old-time cattle roundups in the foothills riding with Bob Edwards and George Lane. He rode too with "Nigger" John Ware who was on roundups for the CC, owned then by W. E. Cochrane. Dad, as did all men who knew him, praised John Ware - not only for his great skill as a rider and his powerful strength - but

for his sense of humor and his gentlemanly manner. Though John always carried a gun, he never used it. Bert Widdup and Dad worked together on the roundup.

In 1934 Dad retired from ranching, making his home in Cayley and High River. He died March 20th, 1940.

My mother, Mary Alberta Zintel, came west from Caugua, Ontario in 1912. She worked as a telephone operator in Cayley. Mother passed away on February 17, 1929. As a point of interest, the minister who married Mother and Dad was lost in the Titanic disaster.

I, Stewart Lorne Tiffin, the only child of their marriage, was born on February 19th, 1914. Since 1934 I have operated the Tiffin homestead. On November 21st, 1933 Kathryn Margaret Caspell and I were married in Cayley. We have two children - Alberta Pearl Willis (Mrs. L. L.) of Lacombe, and Lorne of Cayley. There are two granddaughters, Roberta and Darlene Willis.

Stewart Tiffin

Mrs. J.S. Derry

W.S. Derry

Mr. and Mrs. W.S. Derry (William and Sarah Jane) were among the early homesteaders, coming to Cayley from Ontario in 1902. Mrs. Derry was the mother of C.L. Tiffin and Mrs. George Wickens. Mr. Derry operated the butcher shop for George Wickens for a number of years. The Derry's moved to Victoria in 1911. Mrs. Derry is buried in Cayley.

Walter and Jimmy Brown

Walter and Jimmy Brown and their mother were some of the first settlers in the Cayley district. They moved here from Ontario to homestead in 1902. Later Walter and his family bought the farm which Borden Cooper now owns. After selling the farm they moved to the U.S. When Jimmy married Alice Sterling, Mrs. Brown Sr. moved back to Ontario.

Mrs. Jimmy Brown (Alice Sterling) and Mrs. Bert Widdup (Maude Coussons) came out from Yorkshire, England in 1908 as young girls. Mrs. Brown was very active in music and church work. She sang alto in the choir and was choir leader for quite a number of years and also played in the orchestra.

When Mr. and Mrs. Brown retired from farming they moved to Vancouver where Mrs. Brown still resides.

Mr. and Mrs. James Clarence McIndoe

It was in the spring of 1902 that my husband, J. C. McIndoe came from Galt, Ontario and filed on a claim near Cayley. He had a good paying job in Galt but no chance for advancement. My two brothers were going out west to homestead and my mother urged him to go too. My eldest brother settled near Botha, Alberta, and the other, Arthur Walker, took the claim joining us on the north. Our quarter was the N.E. 14-17-29-W4, about two miles south-west of town.

It was so rainy that year that my husband went to Calgary and worked at his trade of plumbing until he could get on the land and build a house. When it was partly finished he sent for me. I arrived on September 13, 1902 with my son and

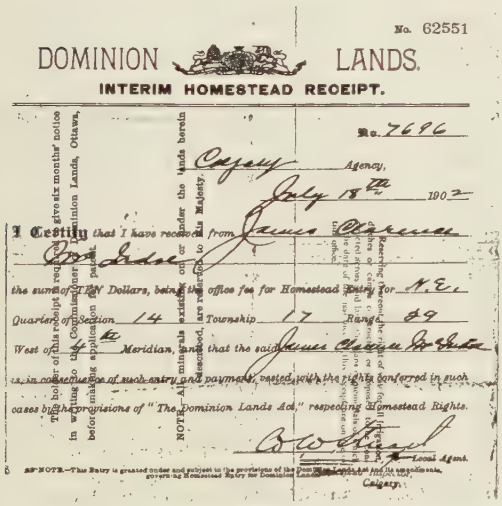
Mr. and Mrs. McIndoe (1916)

a niece of fourteen years to help me When the train left High River the conductor came and sat with us. He said we would soon be at Cayley but he wouldn't let us off the train unless someone was there to meet us, as there was only a three-sided shed there at that time - nothing else but the stockyards. I assured him that my husband would be there and of course he was. He was in a lumber wagon trying to hold the horses who were afraid of the train. I hardly knew him - so tanned, and with a beard.

For more than a year we had no neighbours nearer than ten miles. We went to High River for everything. There was one store in High River, The High River Trading Company, which had the Post Office as well.

We were so glad when Mr. and Mrs. George Wickens and little daughter came to Cayley and opened a grocery store and Post Office. Mrs. Wicken's mother, Mrs. Derry, was my first neighbour to the south and visited me often. I think Bert Widdup and his father were our second neighbours. His sister came later and their place joined ours on the south-west corner. My brother Arthur and his wife settled on their claim a year later.

When my uncle, Edward Walker, came from Kansas in 1902 he filled half his colonist's car with hard wheat. I bought one bushel from him for $1.00 and planted it. How the cowboys laughed at me! They said it would be snowed under long before harvest. I harvested forty bushels and I think it must have been the first hard wheat grown in Alberta. That was in 1903.



No. 62551

DOMINION LANDS.

INTERIM HOMESTEAD RECEIPT.

No. 7696

Calgary Agency,

July 18th 1902

I Certify that I have received from James Clarence Bodie

the sum of Ten Dollars, being the office fee for Homestead Entry for N.E.

Quarter of Section 14 Township 17 Range 29

West of 4th Meridian, and that the said James Clarence Bodie

is in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such cases by the provisions of "The Dominion Lands Act," respecting Homestead Rights.

NOTE.—All mining claims existing on or under the lands herein described are reserved to His Majesty.

Local Agent.

Calgary.

NOTE.—The Entry is granted under and subject to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act and its amendments, covering Homestead Entry for Dominion Lands.

The cattlemen resented it when we fenced our land. Once they rested over 1000 head of cattle in front of our place for half a day and a night, on their way to the stockyards. They left early in the morning. In the late afternoon I saw what appeared to be a calf's head bobbing up in the grass. It was a calf alright, so I went to the barn and got one of our calves and tied it to the front gate. Very soon the new-born calf came up to it and I got them both into the barn, and fed the hungry little new calf warm milk. If it had been left out the coyotes would have eaten it that night. I raised it and sold it for $45.00 - a good price at that time.

I spent four years on the homestead, most of the winters alone as my husband worked at his trade in High River, coming home only on weekends.

There was no doctor nearer than Calgary, so we were very glad to hear that a young doctor, Dr. Stanley, had come to High River. We had Dr. Stanley when my

son Frank was born. We didn't have a school for two years either.

My sister was a receptionist for a doctor in Detroit, Michigan, and she wrote and asked my husband if he would meet the doctor's brother, a young Mr. Sloane, and help him locate land to file on. He did, - and that is how we first knew Mr. Garfield Sloane.

I sent to T. Eaton's for garden seeds, and from one package of rutabaga seed had so many rutabagas that we gave my brothers each a single-box wagon-load, and kept enough so that each night I would put some in a heavy wooden box and chop them with a spade and feed them to the cows as I milked. Then I sent to Winnipeg for twelve trees. People said I was crazy, that the Chinooks would start the sap running in the winter and then cold weather would freeze and kill them. I planted them and pulled water up from a 40 foot well and watered them, and they lived.

After a few years on the homestead we moved to High River and the first house we lived in was owned by Mr. Henry Hamilton. We hired him to take us by wagon on three summer camping trips up the Highwood to the Ford coal mines. Ford was always there in the summer, also the editor of the Calgary paper. They made us more than welcome and the men would fish together.

My husband put High River's first plumbing in for Dr. Stanley, and later for Mr. Clark, the editor of the paper. I had the first kitchen sink in town. We didn't have a sewer, the water just ran out on the vacant lot next door. We lived in the Trenholm house then. My husband also put the plumbing in the Prince of Wales ranch home.

We moved to Calgary, and later to Seattle. I now reside in La Crescenta, California.

Note: Mrs McIndoe was Worthy Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star in High River in 1915. She was 90 years of age when the above was written in 1966.

Mrs. McIndoe

Frank Walker Family

In 1902 two brothers of Frank's came west to file on homesteads. At that time the Calgary Land Office was directing settlers north so they took homesteads near Stettler which was then forty miles from the railway. Frank wrote and asked them to settle nearer a railway and town - thinking I would like that better. Arthur had liked the south country so he changed to the Cayley district the next spring, building west of Cayley. Frank came that summer and I followed soon after. Our homestead was located about one-half mile north of town.

We lived in a grainery on Arts farm until our house was built. Frank brought two carloads of stock, implements and household effects which included my piano a Chickering which had been a wedding present, and which I still prefer in looks and tone to any other.

The settling of Cayley district marked the change from ranching to farming. The big ranchers felt it was a mistake, but they were glad to have Frank fix up a crude sort of telegraph office to bill out their stock. He had been a railroad agent at Colorado Springs, Colorado before coming to Cayley. George Lane, Pat Burns and others would come to our farm and sometimes take over Frank's work, ploughing or whatever he was doing, while he went to get their shipment out.

We dug a well but could not use the water, so we had to haul water from a

Left to right: Ella Gollie, Bill Hicklin, Fairy Walker, Lynwood Walker, Hattie Scragg, Ken Walker, Paul Walker, Frank Walker, Mrs. Wickens, Sr. 1914.

spring at Widdup's until we got a well drilled. For several years Webb Longacre came out with barrels on a dray and filled them at our well to supply the Cayley residents.

The Wickens General Store, Post Office and home was a social centre. The first Christmas party was held there end everyone around the country came. Daddy Bauer with his accordian and I on the organ supplied music for dancing. My first recorded date is a program of a concert in High River in which I took part. It is dated November 5, 1903. Dr. Stanley was chairman, and Rev. Price was also on the program. I remember that concert well. Rev. Price used to hold church services in our house before the church was built. We had a Sunday School that first year led by Mrs. Lin Farrell.

The first winter I did not see an egg until our hens started laying in the spring, nor a bit of fresh fruit or other things we feel so necessary now. Frank had brought dried fruit in the car and Wickens' sold dried apples from Ontario that I think were the best ever. We got vegetables from Brown Brothers that fall and there was plenty of meat and wild duck.

Edith Walker (Arthur's wife) had taken osteopathy and had several cases of birth, one at Wicksons. Dr. Reinhardt was our first doctor and lived at the hotel, which was built after we came. He was with me when Lyn was born in 1906. Nellie Gardner took care of me.

The first wedding was when Miss Backus was married to Pete Sims by her father, who was a minister. The first death was Mrs. Fetterman's twins who died soon after birth. Mr. and Mrs. Wickens made a pretty coffin and they were buried at Cayley. It was the first cold spell of winter. Mrs. Wickens and I sat up with Mrs. Fetterman and water froze in the room. Mrs. Wickens fixed paper over my chest and in my hood before I walked home at five o'clock in the morning. It was twenty below zero then.

Fairy Walker

Mrs. Walker will always be remembered for the music she brought to the community, playing for church services and concerts, as a member of orchestras organized at various times, and as piano teacher to the boys and girls.

The three Walker boys were Kenneth Lynwood and Paul. Paul lost his life as a young boy when he was struck by a race horse at a Cayley sports day. The people of the community were so shocked and saddened by the tragedy that there was never another sports day held. Kenneth is the District Agriculturist at Strathmore. Lynwood was school principal at Cayley in the 1930's. He and his wife, Esther, had three children, Ted, Frank and Beverly. Lynwood is now deceased. Mrs. Walker resides in Calgary and has been active in the Golden Age Club. In 1955 she was honored by Calgary Power as the Grandmother of Alberta.

Edward Walker Family

The Edward Walker family were originally from Toronto, and had gone from there to Kansas. In 1902 the homesteads were opening up in this area, and their relatives the Arthur and Frank Walkers and McIndoes had already come to the Cayley district. In December of that year the Walker family arrived in High River. It had taken three weeks for their two settler's cars loaded with cattle, horses, chickens, grain and household effects to come from Anthony Kansas. The families rode in the big colonist car.

Edward homesteaded the present Garry Shields farm, and Orville (O.G.) homesteaded what is now Cecil Moncrieff's home quarter. Archie settled east of where the village is now. Later Mr. Walker bought C and E land a mile north of Cayley and built a home there. It was later Bob Walker's home and is now owned by Mrs. Carl Alexander.

The Walkers were a big family, and with the other relatives who had settled in the district, there was a time when twenty-two Walker families and relatives of Walkers received their mail at the Cayley Post Office. The sons of the family were Cleighton, George, Archie, Will, Herb, Orville, and Bob. The daughters were Maude, Bertie and Ida. All but George and Herb resided in the district. Edward was a carpenter by trade and did much of the early building in the village. After a time he moved to High River, and retired from there to Calgary.

When he was 94 he and his wife Phoebe took a trip back to Kansas. While there he took pneumonia and died, and is buried in Kansas. Phoebe returned to Calgary but three weeks later she too was dead from pneumonia. She was buried by her husband in Kansas. Four sons and three daughters have passed away. Cleighton now resides in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Archie in Wichita, Kansas, and Bob in Vulcan, Alberta.

Archie Walker

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Walker homesteaded three miles east of Cayley on what is now the Stadlwiser farm. After selling it to his brother, O. G. Walker, he moved north of town and later purchased the Luther Hicks homestead. This farm was sold to Henry Hansen in 1925 and the Walker Family moved to Cayley. Archie also owned land to the west which he called Galloway Springs. Here he raised pure bred Galloways. His son Stanley and wife Thelma resided at Galloway Springs for several years. It is now part of the MacMillan Hutterite Colony.

The sons were Stanley and Edward, the daughters Irene (Mrs. Clem Betton), and Aileen. Mrs. Walker is deceased and Archie resides in Wichita, Kansas.

O.G. Walker

Orville (O. G.) Walker and his bride Nora came to the district with his father in 1902 and settled on their homestead west of Cayley. One early incident that O. G. remembered was the time the NWMP officer from High River rode in to the homestead and requested his help in heading off a fellow who had stolen a team of horses from Bob McPherson. O. G. saddled his horse and set off with the Mountie and it wasn't too long until they had the culprit and had recovered the stolen team.

Later O. G. purchased Archie's homestead east of Cayley and built the house which is now Lawrence Stadlwiser's home. Mr. and Mrs. Walker had one son, Harold (Doc).

Orville's second wife was Winnifred Hockins. Their family are Walter, Wilma (Mrs. Leonard Nelson) and Wilbur. After a long and active life in the community O. G. passed away in 1948. Mrs. Walker resides in Vulcan.

Harold Walker

"Doc" went to school at Braeside. He married Helen Taylor, also an old Braeside student. Doc farmed his grandfather's land west of town for a time then branched out for himself, purchasing the old Power's place, and has become one of the district's more successful farmers. Helen is deceased. Their son Jack resides in Calgary and Neil farms, and operates the High River Lockers. Neil and Julie have four children, Keith, Roger, Diane and Darlene.

Harold and his wife, Esther, are retired and live in High River. Esther's children, Rita, Lawrence and Karen Metzell all attended school in Cayley.

Robert Walker

Bob, the youngest of the Edward Walker family, came with his parents from Kansas in 1902, and as a young man worked for Alex Thompson in High River.

He married Miss Frances Gribble and they farmed a mile north of Cayley. After Mrs. Walker passed away Bob resided in Lethbridge for a number of years, and also in High River. He is at present in Vulcan.

Orma resides at Dawson Creek and Donald farms the Ketcham place east of Cayley.

The Wickson Family

It was May the first, 1902 when the two covered wagons carrying the Arthur Wickson family and their possessions rolled out from Sheridan, Wyoming, headed for Canada's North West Territories. Arthur ("Cap") Wickson drove one, Mrs. Wickson's uncle the other.

In the two wagons were basic settler's effects, supplies for the two month trip ahead, the three adults, and the four Wickson children, including baby Grace, who was just two weeks old.

Fresh meat was no problem on the trail for game was plentiful, and every creek they crossed offered fish for the catching. Mrs. Wickson kept a short diary of the trip, and in it she records that they never made camp or set up the cook-stove without an audience of Indians - usually squaws, squatting around to watch. Sometimes she pleased them with a small gift of sugar or a bit of tabacco.

Fuel was no problem, when the wagons left the wooded mountain and foothills country - the travellers resorted to the standard prairie fuel - dry buffalo chips which lay everywhere. The children helped gather them for the camp fires, and when the homestead was finally reached, the whole family pitched in to gather a good supply of buffalo chip fuel.

When Fort Macleod was reached the Old Man River was on the rampage, and the wooden bridge had been washed from its moorings. It was necessary to call a halt until the flood receded enough to make a fording possible.

The Cayley country looked wonderful. Grass was belly high to a horse and cattle ranged freely everywhere. The Wickson's filed on a homestead a mile west and a mile north of where the village was later established and on July 1st the wagons were driven on to the homestead quarter, where a one room home was built. The old MacLeod Trail went right by the house and on over by the rim of the Coulee. It took years of ploughing to erase traces of it, although it can still be seen just west of Cayley.

Hospitality was generous in those days, and when the Dan Kellers arrived the following year, both families lived in the one-room home until the Kellers had established themselves on their own homestead.

Mr. Wickson helped establish Last Chance school and served on the Board for many years. The Wickson children - Lester, Ivan, Charlie, Arthur, Helen, Lora and Grace - all walked through Sqaw Coulee to school. There were many buffalo heads and bones lying in the coulee where Indians had stampeded the great animals over the bank, and the children found many arrow heads.

Arthur Wickson was born in Iowa, and his wife in Missouri. The first fourteen years of Arthur's life were spent in a school for Civil War Orphans. At the age of fourteen he ran away from the school, and reaching the coast of New York, hired on an Arctic whaling boat. As well as five years as a whaler, his experiences included a freighting business of two sixteen horse teams and a sawmill business. He was manager of Sir Burke Ranch near Sheridan before coming to Alberta.

Mrs. Wickson too, was a true pioneer, who found time to help wherever an extra hand was needed, and who served as mid-wife to many of the settler's wives.

Helen Cone

Lester Wickson writes that his father worked for Lineham Lumber Company at Okotoks before filing on the homestead. Logs being floated down the river had piled up on the sandbars and Mr. Wickson used his horses to pull the logs off the bars and into the stream.

Lester remembers his Dad building the one roomed house and says "You opened the door of the house and there would be some of those range cattle looking at you. Some of them got their faces washed with dish-water. It was a great relief when Dad got some willow posts and put a fence up around the buildings and we didn't have to be afraid of going out in the dark and falling over one of those animals, or meeting one of them face-to-face."

"When Dad started breaking up his land with two horses on a walking plough I was going up and down with him in my bare feet, and picking up duck eggs and taking them to the house so they could be cooked for us. There were lots of ducks in those days."

Lester also tells of his brother Ivan who lost his life in a hunting accident in the fall of 1913.

The Keller Family

E. A. (Dan) Keller was a veteran of the gold-rush of '98. He didn't stake any claims, but he took a team of horses in with him and made very good money as a teamster. In 1902 he came with Henry Gardner and Dave Bell from Montana in search of homestead land. Gardner and Bell found land across the Little Bow and Dan filed on a quarter two and a half miles north-east of the Cayley Stockyards. He returned to the Madison Valley and early the following year came back with Mrs. Keller, Eunice and Everett, who was then an infant.

Back: Madge, Everett, Frankie, Clinton. Front: Alberta, Mr. Keller, Gertrude, Mrs. Keller, Eunice.

They stayed with the Wickson family while living accommodations were prepared on the homestead. Two tents were mounted on wooden frames with floors and half-walls to form rooms for living and sleeping. This served the family for nearly four years. Two of the children were born in the canvass and frame structure.

Some sod was broken in 1903 and sowed to oats. The oats were threshed in the fall by Tasker and Shaw. That winter Lane's long-horn cattle were a menace hanging around the tents and rubbing themselves on the canvass walls. Dan shot a horn off one with his rifle to scare them away.

Dan had a preference for log houses, he was used to them in Montana, and he firmly believed in never doing anything the easy way if a harder way could be found. So rather than buy lumber from Lineham's Mill in High River, or from Ingraham Bros in Cayley, he scouted around until he found suitable timber up on Bear Creek west of Pekisko, and then spent two winters cutting logs and hauling them home a distance of about 30 miles on a bob sleigh. Money was a scarce commodity in those homesteading days, and by cutting logs rather than buying lumber it was no doubt possible for the family to have a larger and a better home at that time.

He would leave by four o'clock in the dark winter mornings and arrive home with his load of logs late in the night. More than once the load upset on the rough steep trails and he would have to loose the chains and let the logs roll clear and then reload them on the righted sleigh.

For a log house it was big, in fact one of the largest homes in the district in 1906, a two-story structure twenty four feet square. Bill Barker did much of the carpenter work and Clarence McIndoe made the metal eaves-troughs. Sixty years later, with the addition of a stucco overcoat, the log house is still sheltering members of the Keller family. The water barrels on the stoneboat outside the door have been replaced by a pressure system, and the coal-oil lamps by Calgary Power - but it's still the same log house. There were enough logs cut to build a big log grainery, and it too still serves.

Dan was a community leader in planting trees. The big maple grove was planted even before the house was built.

He had the reputation of being able to endure cold beyond the ordinary. Most men in those team and wagon days wore wool caps with ear flaps for protection against the stinging winter winds. Dan wore his old felt hat both winter and summer. When the temperature dropped to twenty or thirty degrees below zero or worse, he tied a black silk handkerchief over his head and then put his hat on top.

In 1908 the family drove up to Calgary's first fair in two wagons. Mrs. Keller and the children rode in a covered wagon, and the other, driven by Rube Meyers, the hired man, held supplies and camping equipment. They forded Sheep Creek at Okotoks and stopped in the shade of the trees to rest their horses and have dinner.

In 1912 Mr. Keller, Everett and Clinton, took in the first stampede. They rode up on the train that time. It rained and the grounds were sloppy with mud. They watched the events from the little wooden grandstand, and remember especially the roping by Guy Weadick and Florence La Due.

Almost every summer the family went camping and fishing in the hills - usually a few friends went along so it took two democrats and extra saddle horses for transportation. They all remember the time that Gertrude (the youngest) was sitting between her father and Clinton in the front seat of one of the democrats when she suddenly felt ill. There wasn't time to stop but Gertrude, as always, was equal to the occasion - she turned sideways, pulled open Clinton's jacket pocket and kept the buggy nice and tidy!

Another early day memory was the time the bum came to the door and frightened Mrs. Keller. The kids ran for Mr. Custer, the hired man who used to be a policeman. Mr. Custer took the bum to the root house and locked him in. When Dan came home he got him out of the root house, gave him a kick on the seat and sent him on his way.

In 1917 Dan harvested a bumper crop of wheat which sold at a high war-time price, so the whole family moved to Alabama. Four years of growing water-melons, sweet potatoes, peaches and pecans were enough and in 1920 they moved back to the farm at Cayley.

Dan liked to talk and visit with people, and he had an unsatisfied yen to be a salesman so he became the local agent for Aladdin Lamps. He had a wonderful time and gave it up only after every family in the district had been sold at least one Aladdin Lamp.

Dan loved horses - the purebred Clydesdales that he showed at the 1908 fair - or the Indian cayuse that he took in on a trade. But the kind that appealed to him most were the ornery bronks and outlaw types. One of these was Lizzie, a crazy big bay that the boys worked in the field with great danger to life and limb. But at stampede time Lizzie was able to let go with all her pent up fury. The family once had a postcard picture of her trying hard to unseat Eddie Watrin.

Keller's 30-60 Rumely Oil Pull. Wet fall of 1927.

Years later when Dan and Mrs. Keller moved to Wyndel, B.C., Dan couldn't part with Lizzie so he took her along. It became necessary to have her shod so he took her to the blacksmith shop in Creston. The blacksmith tied her up and went to work, but Lizzie was having none of that. She lunged back and broke the halter rope, wheeled and tore into the blacksmith's office and out the door to the street. The sidewalk was on a higher level than the street, and the family who had just parked the old touring car below were crossing to the other side. Lizzie hit the sidewalk with a clatter and then jumped right on top of the car tearing through the canvas top like it was cheesecloth. That family must have considered themselves mighty lucky!

On Sundays Keller's was the gathering place for many of the districts young people. The boys rode steers and horses or played ball and there was always a

big freezer of home-made ice cream to round off the fried-chicken dinners..

Mrs. Keller was born in Ennis, Montana, the daughter of pioneer ranchers. She worked very hard raising big gardens, looking after chickens, and all the other work which fell on the shoulders of a farmwife and mother - but no one ever heard her complain. She was an excellent cook and in her spare time in the winter she crocheted and embroidered. For many years her mother, "Grandma Smith" who was confined to a wheel chair with arthritis, made her home with the family.

In 1937 Mr. and Mrs. Keller moved to Wynndel, B.C. where Dan had purchased wheat land from the Kootenay Reclamation project. Mrs. Keller passed away in 1942 and Mr. Keller in 1943.

Of the two boys and seven girls, Eunice (Mrs. J. Hnatyshyn) resides at Loma Linda, California. Eunice and John spent twenty five years in the mission fields of India and Africa. Frankie (Mrs. Anugs Scobie) lives at Anaheim, California. Madge (Mrs. Charles Alexander) resides in Portland, Oregon. She too spent many years in India. Alberta (Mrs. Frank Shier) lives near Cultus Lake, B.C. Gertrude (Mrs. Ray Street) resides in Squamish, B.C. Clinton and his wife, Martha, operate a motel in Penticton, and Everett, who married Iris Houghton, farms the home place.

Everett S. Keller

Everett worked for the Royalite Oil Company in Turner Valley for a few years, and then did general trucking and hauled oil to Saskatchewan in the dirty thirties. He took over the family farm in 1937.

As a boy Everett hunted deer, moose and other big game with his father. Since then almost every hunting season finds him, with like minded friends, back in the mountains. Fishing is his summer sport. In years past he and his friends rode and packed over many of the pack trails on fishing trips, and just exploring country which was otherwise inaccessible. Much of it now can be reached by gravelled Forestry road.

The family are Opal (Mrs. Jim Seifert) of Olds, Gary of Cayley, Eileen (Mrs. Ian Young) of Melbourne, Australia, and Beverly (Mrs. George Van Dine) of High River. Gary and his wife Florence have one daughter, Kim. In 1966 Kim was the third generation of the family to start school in Cayley.

May Blizzard 1903

A storm remembered more than sixty years is the blizzard of May 13, 1903. Ernie Meyers, then about twelve or thirteen years old, and Jim Porte started after Meyers' cattle which had drifted with the storm. They trudged for miles. It was hard to see, and in the snow everything looked strange and distorted. Thinking he saw the cows, Jim yelled "Look, there they are!" Ernie thought it was the cows too, but when they got closer it was a flock of prairie-chickens in the snow.

There were three foot drifts but it was slushy underneath, and in the storm the boys waded right into Silver Lake before they realized it. They turned back, and fighting their way against the storm came upon Dan Keller's tents. By that time they didn't know where home was. Dan advised them to strike straight west to the railway tracks and follow them to a fence leading to their grandfather's house.

They found the cows the next day at Mosquito Creek along with thousands of others.

George Robertson Family

George Robertson, who was a veteran of the Yukon gold-rush of 1898, homesteaded the present dePaoli place just west of Cecil Moncrieff. His brother, Jack, who was a bachelor homesteaded the adjoining quarter.

The Robertson family lived on different farms in the district. George was interested in real-estate and had a business in High River and later in Cayley. The family was Maude, Harry, Margaret, Ralph, Ethel, Dawes, Fern and Bud. Margaret was an excellent piano player, Harry played the violin. Ralph married Pearl Betts and worked for many years on the CC Ranch. He and his wife had one daughter, Mary. Dawes Robertson lost his life in the first war.

George Robertson operated a service station in Cayley in the early 1930's, and also ran a livery barn and dray.

George's brother, Jack, spent many years in Okotoks and Black Diamond areas. Jack used to tell of driving a munitions wagon for the NWMP during the Riel Rebellion.

Bert Carl Miller

In 1902 Bert Miller came up from Iowa to visit his uncle John Stevens who had taken a homestead south-east of Cayley. Bert looked the country over and liked what he saw. He returned to Iowa and married Elizabeth Sandy. In 1909, with his wife and three children, Laurel, Lela and Bulah, Bert headed again for Alberta.

The family landed at Cayley on September 9th and spent the winter at his uncle John's farm. Mr. Stevens had sold his homestead for $500.00 and bought where Percy Stafford now lives. It was a mild winter with hardly any snow and the family lived in a big tent. Laurel started school at Coleraine.

Cayley at that time was a lively town with every type of business. It was the largest shipping point in the country, and all the ridge west of Cayley was open to hold and work cattle. There were lots of badgers and the holding ground was full of badger holes.

The summer of 1910 was the dry year and the ashes from the big British Columbia forest fire drifted over the prairie. The summer of 1911 Bert bought the Fitch place at $7.00 an acre, the place is now owned by Wid Ransom. He broke up fifty acres with six cayuse ponies and had John Skeen build a house.

The end of March 1912, Bert and John Stevens took a round-up wagon and went down into southern Montana to bring back 500 head of cattle and some saddle horses that they had bought. Jack Lemon, Bonnie Adams, Dave Mix and nine year old Laurel went with them, while Cornelius Shaw stayed and looked after things at home. It was a dreary trip, with rain and snow almost every day. The cows were in fairly good shape with new calves arriving each day, so travelling was slow.

At Browning, Montana Bert hired a little Englishman to drive the calf wagon

as the calves were too young to travel. The wagon was an old California Freight wagon, sixteen feet long and with a high seat.

One night when Bert came in from night herding, his clothes were wet and he laid them by a little air tight heater in the tent. The Englishman built up the fire when he got up to take his shift and Bert's pants fell against the heater and burned off one leg and part of his pocket book. When Bert woke up he had no pants so he put on a pair of the Englishman's riding breeches - the kind that laced below the knee on each side. They were too small and he could not button them, they also lacked six inches of reaching the top of his riding boots. He wore them until they reached a town where he could buy overalls. When he offered a half-burned $20.00 bill, the storekeeper wasn't too happy but sold him the clothes anyway.

The drive began the end of April or first of May and it was June before they arrived home.

In July Bert took his family and crew in the round-up wagon to the Calgary Stampede. They camped on the ground where the midway is now, which at that time was all brush and poplar. It was not good camping weather because it rained and rained. Jesse Stalls, a negro, was the famous bareback rider at that time, and Tom Three Persons won the bronk riding. They were trying to fly an aeroplane on the centrefield but as it went out the south end it hooked on the high board fence and tore a gap, which all the men volunteered to help fix, so the show could go on.

Guy Weadick was Stampede Manager and he and Bert became good friends. Fifty head of long-horned steers had been brought in from Old Mexico by the Stampede Board for steer roping. When the Stampede was over Bert bought thirteen longhorns and shipped them to Cayley, their horns were so long that they couldn't go down the chutes, so the box-car door was opened and they boiled out of there to the open range.

Bert bought more land and in 1913 put in a feed lot at Williams Coulee at the big spring. He fed hay and oats to about 100 steers winter and summer. He had about 300 hogs with them. The hogs were driven to Nanton for shipping and the steers were trailed to the stockyards at Cayley. Bert bought hogs from anyone who had feeder hogs for sale, at so much a hog as there weren't any scales.

One time Bert bought some hogs off Charlie Gribble. Mrs. Miller had to be away on the day that the hogs were to be brought in, so a couple of school teachers who boarded there volunteered to get dinner. Mrs. Miller told them that there were vegetables in the garden, beans in the sack, and a leg of pork. When the men came in for dinner the beans were cooked in a big four gallon pot. The leg of pork was in the pot too, foot and all sticking up in the air. The peas were cooked - yes - pods and all, and the potatoes were boiled with their jackets on. They had put about a gallon of dried prunes on to cook and when they swelled there were prunes in everything. The coffee was like brine, it was so strong After the men got outside, Bert said he hoped the men didn't think his wife had got that dinner. The men said the girls were good looking, and they hadn't been very hungry anyway!

Bert Miller bought cattle for Mingers and later A. H. Mayland. One train load was brought into Cayley for shipment to Chicago. They started to corral them at eleven o'clock in the morning then the train came in and started spotting the 52 cars it took to make a trainload. The cattle stampeded and some got as far back as Mosquito Creek. The Mexico steers got away and went back home. It

was seven o'clock that evening when they got all the stock back into the yards and eleven that night before they were loaded.

Most of that trainload was from 7U Brown's, Willy Gardner, Billy Monkman's, Dick Brothers and some cattle Bert had on the range. Bert and Laurel went with the cattle and it took seventeen days to go down. The cattle had to be unloaded, fed, watered and inspected. Some went lame from getting hot and standing in the cars.

Bert liked to hunt and fish and took many pack trips into the mountains. He left a round-mouth shovel at his old camp site by the Fossil Springs at Saddle Mountain in 1916, and someone set it up by a tree. The handle is badly rotted away but it is still a landmark. In his early days he was a good roper and bronk rider. He loved to wrestle and play jokes.

Mrs. Miller became ill in 1927 and was taken to Rochester. She passed away in 1935 and Bert never came back to Canada to live. The place was sold and re-sold until Wid Ransom bought it. Bert went to rest in 1960 and is buried at Liberty Centre, Iowa with Mrs. Miller.

Bert got the E-V-Brand LR in 1909 and it has stayed in the family since. It is now owned by his son, Laurel.

Laurel Miller

Archie Gardner Family

Archie Gardner was born in Ireland in 1852, went to Warren, Illinois in 1872 and married Cora Baker, a Dutch girl from Pennsylvania. They had seven children - William, Charlie, Burton, John, Nellie, Archie Jr. and Harry. Mrs. Gardner died when Harry was fourteen months old and later Mr. Gardner married Susan Martin, an Irish girl, and another son, Joseph was born.

In 1902 he heard of the free homesteads in Alberta, and came to look at the "promised land" because it seemed a good way to get all of his boys set up on their own. He arrived at Cayley, then boasting only an 8 x 10 depot, a large cattle corral and a single new store run by George Wickens. The land looked so good that he promptly filed on six 160 acre plots for himself and five elegible sons. Four of these homesteads were adjoining Cayley.

Will, Charles, Burt, John, Archie, Jr., Joe, Harry.

On May 2nd, 1903, Archie and Susan with the five younger children, arrived in Cayley with a freight car load of household goods and stock and pitched a tent near the depot. A few days later there was a heavy snow storm with strong winds which left a foot of snow on the level and six foot drifts around the tent and depot. It was miserable - Nellie went to stay with Mr. and Mrs. Derry until it warmed up. A blessed chinook took the snow all away and we moved out to Dad's homestead, dug a well, and hired Percy Taylor and Mr. Dewey to build a two-story house - took them about a month. The homestead was the N.E. ¼-18-17-28-W4.

Dan McDougal was hired to break about thirty acres of virgin soil which was

sowed by broadcasting the oats. John and Archie harrowed the seed in. That same year a barn was built and four of the quarters were fenced. Everyone was kept busy.

"We were all happy, says Harry, prairie chicken and wild ducks were plentiful. We had pleasant neighbors--J.J. Shaw, John Marth, Ed Brewster, Frank Shier, Frank Walker and George Wickens who owned the first store and post-office. Out Squaw Coulee way were the Caspells, Widdups and Derrys".

Wedding picture of Nellie & Frank Coyle.

Archie Sr. and Susan, with son Joe moved to Colorado, selling the homestead to son John. Archie died in 1938 and Susan in 1942.

Son William R. Gardner and his wife Leola Sawyer gave up their homestead to Charlie Nelson and homesteaded out near Reid Hill in 1904.

Charles A. Gardner brought his first wife Margaret (Custer) to live on his homestead. They separated in 1910 and he married Winnie McKinnon who had a son, Bain. They had two children, Gracie and David. In 1934 Charlie bought the NW-¼-29-17-28 which had been school land and later moved there to live, his old homestead going to Jack Wickens. Charlie and his wife retired to Vancouver where they passed away in 1952 and 55.

John A. Gardner remembers the Typhoid that hit Cayley in 1903. The railroad provided water for the use of the section crew in a large barrel near the stockyards. Seven cases of typhoid came from drinking from this barrel, including John Gardner, George Wickens and John Marth. There were no deaths and the barrel was taken out when the fever was traced to it. In 1904 he married Alice Huffman in Kansas and had seven children. He bought his father's homestead quarter and in 1909 sold the Cayley farm to Robert Houlden and moved to Vulcan, later to Salem, Oregon where he still lives.

Archie Gardner Jr. lived on NW-¼-18-17-28-W4. He married Bertha Galloway of Lebanon, Oregon. He died in Denver, Colorado in 1959.

Joe Gardner lives at Brooks, Oregon.

Nellie Gardner (Coyle) was Archie Gardners' only daughter in a family of seven sons. She was nineteen when she arrived in Cayley with her parents. She soon made friends with the young people of the district. She assisted at the birth of a son to Frank and Fairy Walker, did housework in various homes in Cayley, High River and Nanton and worked as a waitress for a time in a cafe in High River where she met her future husband-Frank Coyle of Walla Walla, Washington. She was the first bride in Cayley and went to make her home on a ranch north east of Okotoks.

They had three daughters–Lillian (Mrs. S.B. Card) of Calgary; Frances (Mrs. N.A.L. McLean) of Islington, Ontario; Nellie (Mrs. Harvey Forest) of Port Coquitlam, B.C.

Nellie fell in 1945 and smashed her hip which necessitated the use of one crutch since that time.

Frank Coyle died in 1965 and Nellie resides in the Elbow Valley Lodge in Calgary.

Harry Gardner (as written by himself). "At the age of seven I was a victim of spinal meningitis and was very ill. Upon recovery I found to my dismay that my hearing was completely gone. At age fifteen I came with my father, stepmother, brothers and sister Nellie to the village of Cayley. Father had filed on six quarter sections for himself and five older boys. My brother Burton failed to prove up on his quarter so I got it but then left for five years to attend the Gallaudet College, a deaf college where I met my wife-to-be, Mary Josephine Gillman, also deaf. Our daughter Daphne was born at Willows, California where I operated a dairy for two years. But Alberta called and we moved to Vulcan, Alberta to again run a dairy. A son, Charlie, was born there. Two years later we moved onto my old homestead quarter SW-¼-18-17-28-W4 at Cayley where I built a nice new house. Another daughter, Mary Jean was born there.

A few years after Hungarian partridge were introduced to Southern Alberta I asked for and received permission from the Minister of Fisheries and Game to trap some for propogation purposes. Over several years I raised and shipped about 1000 pairs to many parts of Canada and the United States and was commended by the Government for my successful delivery of live birds.

My wife died when Jean was quite small and I later married Richelda de Rosenroll Capps and we lived on my farm north east of Cayley that I bought from Jim Baker. Richelda was also a deaf mute. When she died I sold the farm and moved to Calgary where I have been caretaker of the Salvation Army Citadel ever since. I'm past retirement age but not itching to retire yet.

My daughter Daphne taught school at Milo where she met and married Frank Page. She is now a teacher in the School for the Deaf in Edmonton.

My son Charlie served with the R.C.A.F. and married a girl from Moncton, N.B. He is now in Calgary, an accountant with an oil company.

My daughter Jean is now Mrs. Cliff Pocock of Edmonton."

In the early days Harry acted as an interpreter of the sign language of the Indians.

Mr. and Mrs. Gardner enjoyed music – they "listened" to the piano vibrations with their fingers. They also loved to dance – by counting time.

Harry used to say– "If you want to know if a man is pretending to be deaf or is deaf, stamp your foot real hard behind him – the deaf man will feel the vibrations and turn around."

John and Harry Gardner

Henry Alkyre

Henry Alkyre homesteaded this quarter and was in partnership with Will Walker in purchasing Sec. 17-17-28-W4. They were also in partnership in a threshing rig. He was engaged to marry Nellie Gardner but died in 1906 before the wedding date. His homestead then went to Fred Barker.

Henry Alkyre was a cousin of George McVicar.

Mr. and Mrs. Garfield Sloane

Garfield Sloane came to Alberta in 1903 and proved up on his homestead three miles west of Cayley, the land now owned by Albert Rasmussen. On the 1st of February, 1905, he married Ella Mary Campbell, daughter of James W. Campbell, and returned to his homestead with his bride. They resided on this property until 1916.

During this time four children were born, Isabelle, Mrs. Horace Gray of Claresholm; Alfred, who resides in Taber and works for the Alberta Pool Elevators; Wilbert, farming the home place and Campbell who predeceased his parents in 1933.

In 1916 Mr. Sloane bought the John Drake land one mile west of Cayley and built a new home. In 1920 the family moved to Langford, B.C. where they lived for two years and then moved to Victoria for the next two years. In 1924 they returned to the farm at Cayley. Mr. and Mrs. Sloane moved in to the village of Cayley in 1944 and resided there until their death – Mrs. Sloane in 1949 and Mr. Sloane in 1950.

During the years of the first World War Mr. Sloane was very active in the U.F.A., helping to form many local U.F.A. groups. Mrs. Sloane was a member of the U.F.W.A. When Chautuaquas' first started to travel through the country, Mr. Sloane was one of the promoters for this type of good entertainment in rural areas. He was a crop reporter for the C.P.R. for a number of years.

Before Church Union Mr. and Mrs. Sloane were Presbyterians. When the Wood Memorial United Church was built Mr. Sloane put in many hours of carpenter work along with many others in the district. Mrs. Sloane was devoted to service in the Cayley United Church and the High River Presbyterial. Her name was honored in a W.M.S. Memorial Service held in Calgary. Both Mr. and Mrs. Sloane were Charter members of the 100F Lodge in Cayley.

Hiram (or Hans) and Fritz, Garfield Sloane's faithful ponies adding horse-power to one of Henry Ford's early models. It was about 1912 when a daring Calgary friend of Mr. Sloane drove his new car all the way from Calgary to Cayley. When the car refused to start for the return trip it was towed to Cayley behind the team of ponies and shipped to Calgary by rail. There were no garages in Cayley in those days.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Sloane

Wilbert, known as "Wib", married Gladys Fortney of Gem in 1936 and they have carried on farming the home place of his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Garfield Sloane.

They have three children; David, married and living in New Westminister, B.C.; Connie, Mrs. R. Dillon, lives in Calgary; and Robert, taking a course in Commerce at the University of Calgary.

Wib and Gladys have always taken an active part in the affairs of the Cayley United Church. Wib has served on the board of stewards and as an elder. Gladys' music and choir leadership have added immeasurably to the beauty of the church services. The community is indebted to her for the lovely piano music provided at countless showers, weddings and concerts. Gladys teaches piano to a large class of Cayley children.

Nort Smith

Nort Smith worked for Garfield Sloane for eight years. When the Sloane family moved to the west coast the farm was rented to Nort during their four-year absence.

Joe Sloan

Joe Sloane came to the district a few years later than his brother, Garfield. A.S.H. Fowler had taken up a homestead north-east of Cayley, had "thrown it up" and moved on to Aldersyde. Joe then filed on the land.

Although Mr. and Mrs. Sloane did not remain in the district for too many years they are remembered as very fine neighbors. The homestead was purchased by Jim Baker and later owned by Harry Gardner. Ralph Brown is the present owner.

Samuel H. Duval

The Sam Duval family were among the early comers to the district, homesteading the NE 6-17-28-W4 south of the present village. Clarence Reems is the present owner of the land.

There were three children in the family, a son Charles and two daughters. They were among the original students at the first Cayley School. The family had the misfortune to have their house burn in 1904.

Mr. Duval engaged in a piano and organ business in Nanton in partnership with Adam Anderson. The partnership was dissloved in 1910.

John W. Dahm

John Dahm came from Minnesota and homesteaded the N.W. 6-17-28-W4. The land now belongs to Irving Brockway. Mr. Dahm was one of the original trustees of the first Cayley School, and his children Mary, Martha, Madeline, Maurene, Leo and Lorne were among the first pupils.

Mr. Dahm had a one-man operated threshing machine, with engine and separator mounted together. The remains of the machine are still in the district.

Beisegel Family

Phillip Beisegel homesteaded the SW 32-17-28-W4 about two miles north-east of Cayley. This quarter was sold to Dan Keller and is now owned by Bill Hanson. The Beisegel family then moved south of town and bought Section 1-17-28-W4 from D.H. Gillan. This was a C and E section which Gillan had purchased from Augustus Nanton of Osler Hammond and Nanton. Mr. Nanton, who was a C

and E director owned many tracts of land in this area.

Mr. Beisegel was secretary of Braemar School and his son Irwin worked in the Bank of Hamilton in Cayley. The other boys in the family were Arthur and Lester. The Beisegels sold their land to Bill Brewster and moved to Steveville.

Brownelles

A.A. Brownelle homesteaded the NW 30-17-28-W4 north of Cayley. He did carpentry work. Many people hauled sand from his sand pit to mix with lime, mortar and chopped-up cow hair to make plaster for lath and plastering, and for chimneys. Wes Ferris lived on the Brownelle place for a time.

Cleve Keebler

Mr. and Mrs. Cleve Keebler farmed two miles north of Cayley on the NW 31-17-28-W4, which he bought from Archie Gardner and sold to Gordon Cameron.

Dave Greeves

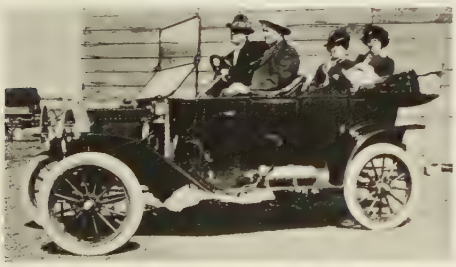
Dave and Mrs. Greeves homesteaded a mile north of the village, later selling to Albert and Maggie Ducommun.

Fisher

Fisher homesteaded the SW 31-17-28-W4, which he sold to Frank Walker after proving it up.

Charles Columbus Chaffee Family

Charlie Chaffee was born in New York State and when a boy moved with his parents to S. Dakota where the family pioneered. That is where he learned to take a sheaf of slough grass, fold it under his arm somehow and twist it into a tight stick to make an acceptable substitute for wood for the stove. "The way he twisted that grass, you could knock a cow over with it", his son Cliff recalled.



Our First Car
Charlie & Carrie Chaffee
Clifford & Lottie Chaffee & Leta

Charlie married Carrie Vanskiver and took up land between Watertown and Bryant, S. Dakota and raised the first corn ever grown in that district. The sons, Clifford and Ralph were born at Bryant.

From there the family went to Lebanon, Oregon. That's where Charlie got hold of some literature about "Sunny Alberta". He was so impressed with the opportunities described that he travelled up in 1902 to see for himself. He liked what he saw, and purchased Hudson Bay land a few miles south-east of the stockyards for $1.50 per acre, and filed on a homestead quarter on the west side of Squaw Coulee, where he donated the land for Last Chance school which later was moved across the road.

The following February Mr. Chaffee and Clifford, who was then about 12 years old, came up with two cars of settlers effects – 8 horses, 4 milk cows, 2 pigs, machinery and furniture. It was 52° below zero when the train puffed its way with difficulty up the long steep grade at Golden. It was so cold in the cars that Cliff lay on top of the horses in an effort to keep warm.

It was March 2, 1903 when the train reached Cayley. As soon as the cars were unloaded and the team hitched to the wagon father and son drove to the new site south-east of town (the present Greftegreff farm). A tent was set up and the first job tackled at once – that of building a one-roomed cabin. Mrs. Chaffee, Ralph and Grandma Vanskiver arrived a couple of weeks later. The family moved into the cabin and the tent was left up to serve as Grandma's bedroom. Grandma Vanskiver remained with the family until her death in 1914 at the age of 89.

The boys gathered buffalo chips for fuel that first summer. In the fall Mr. Chaffee took the wagon and four horses and hauled dusty steam coal from Coal Coulee, some miles to the west. It made a hot fire in that Flying Dutchman stove, Cliff recalled. The Flying Dutchman had a round bowl and two lids, and most folks had a dutch oven up above – a tin oven built around the stove pipe, in which everything, including bread was baked. When you had a "Home Comfort" stove with a reservoir in front in those days you were really getting somewhere.

The first Cayley school was built south of the village the next year and Clifford and Ralph were among the first pupils. Jack North was their teacher. School was held for six months, leaving the summers free to work. For the Chaffee boys that meant herding the 100 head of range cows their Dad had bought. They were able to run them on the open prairie for five years, until the homesteaders filled up the adjacent land. Skating on the sloughs was good winter sport and some winters following wet years Cliff and Ralph were able to skate from home right into Nanton.

Small bands of wild horses were often seen along the Little Bow, and Chaffees captured some of these. Clifford drove a team of black mares for years which were originally from the wild bands. As the prairies settled the horses retreated to the foothills.

In 1908 Cliff took a homestead at Thigh Hill, east of Vulcan, and in 1909 Ralph filed on a quarter at Reid Hill. All winter they hauled grain from the homesteads across the unfenced prairie with six horses and two wagons into Nanton or Cayley. They would leave the homesteads at four in the morning and get to their Dad's place at nine at night. Mr. Chaffee would be listening for the creaking of the wagon wheels in the snow and the singing and whistling of his boys, sounds which carried for miles in the cold winter weather – and he'd be there with his lantern to help unhitch the teams.

At first there was no elevator and the grain was shovelled into box-cars which were spotted by horse power. A team would jerk the car a time or two – then a steady pull would move it to the desired location. "Everyone had good horses and they were good to them too", Cliff said.

A few years later Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chaffee purchased the S ½ 2-18-29-W4. three miles north-west of town, from Lincoln Couey where they made their home until 1919 when they sold this farm to their son Ralph and moved to Oregon. They operated a fruit farm at Salem, Oregon. Carrie died in 1942 at the age of 74 and Charlie at the age of 86 in 1946.

Clifford and Lottie Chaffee

Clifford was born at Bryant, South Dakota in 1890 and came to Cayley with his parents in 1903. He homesteaded at Thigh Hill in the Vulcan area. In 1911 he married Lottie Walker, living for awhile one mile west of Cayley then south of Connemara on the "Brackey" place on the bank of Mosquito Creek. In 1917 this place was sold and they purchased a half section east of Cayley from Lon Stevens – E½ 16-17-28-W4.

They had one daughter, Leta Mae. Clifford and Lottie were very active in Oddfellow and Rebekah Lodges, helping in the building of the Cayley hall, also carrying on with this Order when they made their home at Salem, Oregon.

In 1938 Cliffords rented their farm to Leta and her husband, Albert Arnold and moved to Salem to assist his parents in their declining years, later taking over the fruit farm there.

Clifford was an ardent hunter and fisherman and Lottie loved to camp so they spent much time in the Rockies west of Cayley and later along the streams and lakes in Oregon.

Lottie passed away in 1960 and Clifford in 1966.

Ralph and Clara Chaffee

The first Cayley School one and one half miles south of Cayley was the meeting place of Ralph Chaffee and Clara Barnes in 1908 – he was trying to ride his horse up the school steps! She walked to school from the town of Cayley and he rode from his father's farm two and one half miles east of the school.

Ralph Chaffee and Everett Keller

In 1909 Ralph filed on a homestead at Reid Hill east of Vulcan, built a "house" – a granary 12 x 20, and spent enough time there to be able to prove it up in 1912. He often chuckled over an incident when cars were very much of a novelty and their carbide lights were little known in homestead territory. Attempting to guide a friend with a splashy new car for a "night glimpse" of the piece of land on which he had filed, Ralph and his friend stopped at the home of Mr. and Mrs. "Heinie" Krause and shone the carbide lights on the door. Mr. Krause came dashing out in his nightshirt, shouting back to his wife, "Mama, Mama, come quick! She's come! She's come! Halley's comet has come!"

Distance didn't seem to matter too much even in 1910 and 1911 for Ralph's buggy and fine team covered the miles from Reid Hill to Cayley to take in the dances and entertainments. Christmas Day of 1911 was his wedding day to Clara Barnes and they moved into the 12 x 20 granary until the homestead was proved up and sold in 1912. The money went to Ralph's father Charlie, on a five-acre piece of wooded land at Salem, Oregon and the young couple moved down there, working out to make enough money to eat and to clear their land.

Daughter Lola was born in January of 1914 and they stayed at Salem until the spring of 1916 when Charlie and Carrie Chaffee took over the place in Salem as down payment on the home half-section northwest of Cayley and Ralph and Clara moved there. That was a good crop year and the place could have paid for itself if they hadn't had to eat and live. Ralph joined the I.O.O.F. Lodges and was active in the building of the Cayley I.O.O.F. Hall.

In 1923 a son Harvey was born and in 1925 the family rented the farm to Sam Bagley and moved to Calgary where Ralph and Geo. Barre (formerly of the Cayley Motors) were Distributors for Chrysler and Maxwell cars, their territory being from Red Deer to the border. But Ralph was basically a farmer so sold his business in 1927, returning to the Cayley farm. He served as Last Chance School Trustee for several years and was councillor of the old Ryley Municipality for some time. In 1945 the Chaffees rented the farm to son Harvey and retired to High River but maintained their farming interest by operating a 500 acre piece of grass land ten miles west of High River. This place, known as either "The Cottonwoods" or "Sleepy Hollow" was a popular Sunday meeting place for family and friends. The river rarely failed to give Ralph a few fish when he threw in his line and "Sleepy Hollow" was his jumping-off-point for numerous camping and pack trips. Ralph and Clara were great travellers and visited quite a lot of this continent before his death in October of 1962. Clara made her home in High River until her death in July 1966.

Lola married Bill Hanson of Cayley. They have two daughters, Sherry (Mrs. Don Lyons) and Carol (Mrs. Garry Shields).

Harvey married Sadie MacDonald of Brant and they have two children, Linda (Mrs. Vern Nelson) and Roy of Canoe, B.C. Harvey's second wife is Jeanne Harbison from Stettler who has given him three children; Raymond, Belle, and Susan. They lived at Milo where Harvey was an elevator operator for Alberta Wheat Pool. They now reside in High River.

Alonze (Lon) Stevens N.E.¼ 16.17.28. W4

Alonzo and his wife Viola, came from Iowa to Cayley, arriving in High River on January 1st, 1903.

They brought three children with them, Alpha, Charles and Raymond. In the fall of 1903 they moved onto a homestead 3½ miles east of Cayley where four more children were born.

In 1916 the family sold their land and moved to Washington.

Alpha married Herman Barnes of Meadowbank. They have two children, Walter and Alice and live in Spokane, Washington.

Joe Frazier a half brother of Lon's homesteaded S.W.¼ 22-17-28-W4. He went back to Iowa in 1917.

Frank Kellam brother of Mrs. Lon Stevens homesteaded S.E.¼ 22-17-28-W4. with his wife, Lillian and two boys. They left in 1906.

John & Rebekah Stevens (brother of Lon) homesteaded S.E.¼ 16-17-28-W4 and left in 1906.

First Cayley School

An early issue of Nanton News records "A meeting of Cayley rate-payers was held on January 25, 1904, when it was decided to build a school. Trustees elected were J.J. Shaw, Rev. Backus, and J.W. Dahm. The school is to be built

as near the centre of the district as possible, which will be about two miles south of town."

So Cayley School District No. 990 (Nanton School District organized six months previous was No.50) was organized under the North West Territories Council. Debentures to the amount of $798.00 were issued for construction of the school, barn and outbuildings. The site chosen was the N.W. 7-17-28-W4 across from the J.W. Dahm homestead, now Willard Barker's farm. W.S. Derry was the first Secretary-Treasurer.

J.T. North was engaged as the first teacher at $45.00 a month. Among the first pupils were Cornelious, Wesley and Rachel Shaw, Murray Caspell, Ralph and Clifford Chaffee, Gladys and Clarence Reem, Art and Irving Beisegel, Gladys and Elbert Couey, Alpha and Charlie Stevens, Dahm and Duval children.

Minutes of a school meeting held on March 22, 1905 named Cornelious Shaw as caretaker at ten cents per day "whenever it is necessary to build fires." The meeting decided "not to write a notice to the teacher to see that the stable is cleaned as soon as frost is out by the parties that use it, and to keep it clean during the warm weather."

Minutes of later meetings show that Erle McDonagh took his turn at lighting fires at fifty cents a week. Mrs. Plummer was engaged to do the janitor work at $1.75 per month. Later on Earl Caspell was engaged to sweep the school twice weekly at fifteen cents per sweep.

Miss Marie Caspell (Mrs. Wm. Marshall) was the next teacher, with her sister Edna (Mrs. McCombe) filling in for her until she was able to take the school. At one time the school population dwindled to two pupils, and when they were kept at home to help with the farm work the teacher came each morning for several weeks to an empty school.

In 1908 a new school was built on the present school site in Cayley, and the first school was moved to a new location a bit farther south (NE 1-17-29-W4) and became Braemar School. It retained the number 990.

J.T. North

Cayley can lay claim to one of southern Alberta's most interesting citizens – J.T. (Jack) North – for the year of 1904.

Mr. North, a slim dark handsome young man from Nova Scotia, taught briefly at Cardston when he first came to the North West Territories, then as a student minister he opened Nanton's first Methodist church. He found that his salary of $25.00 per month wasn't adequate to support himself and buy oats and hay for his horse, so he left the ministry and resumed teaching school.

He was the first teacher of Cayley's first school, which at that time was situated about a mile south of town. Students remembered were the children of the Shaw, Chaffee, Dahm, Gardner, (Reems) Stevens and Utterburg families. He at first boarded with the Sam Duval family, but when fire destroyed the Duval home, including Mr. North's book of original poems, he moved in to the Cayley Hotel where he remained until the end of the term.

New to the west, he was interested in everything he saw. He spent hours at the stockyards watching the sorting, roping branding, and admiring the outstanding ropework of two cowboys Baldy Buck and Slippery Bill McComb. Baldy never twirled his rope – he dragged it along the ground, snapped it, and the calf was caught by the foot. He never missed. Slippery Bill didn't miss either, but he swung his rope around his head and caught the animal by the neck.

When roping a bronk from the ground, he would throw his loop over the horse, brace himself, twist quickly to one side, and hold the rope on his hip. The plunging horse pulled to a halt would rear back on his hind legs. It was a swift motion full of strength and grace.

When the big cattle shipments were under way three well-known stockmen made the hotel their headquarters – George Lane, Roper Hull and Pat Burns. Mr. Lane's way of passing the evening was to get in a card game. Pat Burns would sit with his hands clasped around his knees talking to someone, and Mr. Hull, who usually brought Mrs. Hull with him, would spend the evening in his room.

Jack North's varied career later led him into newspaper publishing, real estate, politics and farming. He married Miss Amundsen, daughter of a Claresholm pioneer, and farmed for some years at Parkland. Later the Norths moved to Calgary and Mr. North taught at Victoria, Western and Riverside schools. He was principal of King Edward school for many years until his retirement.

Mr. North was the main speaker at the Cayley celebration of Alberta's Golden Jubilee on November 18, 1955.

Municipal Districts

Local Improvement District No. 9, this area's first municipal government, was organized in 1904. In 1905 Councillors were W.W. Gates, J.A.W. Campbell, J.J. Shaw, A.E. Almas, H.G. Kright and P.L. Sims. At that time taxes were 1¼ cents an acre. (School taxes were five cents). The District was enlarged in 1913. Councillors then were H.C. Wingate, W.R. Phillips, G.G. Coote, with Wm. Caspell, Secretary.

In 1917 several local improvement districts were combined to form the Municipal District of Riley No. 159, named in honor of Dan Riley (later Senator Riley). The area of 241,039 acres was assessed $5,021,400.82. There were 260 farms with a population of 800. An office was opened in Cayley in Dr. Brown's former drug-store (Mr. Caspell had kept the LID records at his farm home). The first councillors on the new Board were R. May, J.S. Blake, Charles Gribble, John Massey, F.W. Horrell and Tom Christofferson. Others who served on Riley M.D. Council were R.E. Lovins, O. Ingram, W.A. Lavender, J.H. Garbutt, G.D. Sloane, A. Saulsberry, D. Halliday, J.J. Wannop, George Easton, J.H. Sutherland, Jesse Trull, Frank Keveny, A.J. LePatourel, Ralph Chaffee, George Hogg and Hjalmer Johnson.

Wm Caspell was Secretary-Treasurer until he passed away in 1929. The next Secretary was Fred Roy who held office until he passed away in 1945. Miss Margaret McIvride was the first office assistant and was followed by Miss Elsie Kehr, who is still on the staff of Foothills M.D. J.H. (Jack) Sutherland was first elected to Council in 1920 and three years later became Reeve, a post which he filled until his death in March, 1967.

Road construction and maintenance was the main business of Riley Council. At first the work was done with horses on fresnos and slips, taxpayers were given the privilege of working out half their tax bill on the roads. In 1920 two Adams Leaning Wheel Graders were purchased at $3000.00 each. This was the height of extravagance at that time and much discussion preceded the purchase, but the two machines proved their worth. They were pulled by a 30-60 Rumley tractor, one on top of the grade and the other down in the ditch. Horses were still used on the drags. An elevating grader pulled by a cat' was purchased about 1931. The first self-propelled motor-grader came several years later. Cal Murdoch was the operator. On 1938 the Council shocked everyone by paying $9000 for an Austin-Weston Road Patrol, but more than the cost price was returned the next year by levelling runways for the High River airport.

Reeve and Councillors of M.D. of Riley in office at Cayley. L to R – Jesse Trull, Ralph Chaffee, Fred Roy, Jack Sutherland, John Blake, Frank Keveny, Arthur LePatourel.

Riley M.D.'s annual budget was of necessity proportioned according to their borrowing limit of $10,000 – a contrast to the Foothills limit of $300,000.

The Riley M.D. office was broken into in 1938 and cash amounting to $313.00, which had been taxes paid into the office the previous day, was stolen from the safe. Papers which the robbers did not want were stuffed into a culvert near the stockyards. The theives were never caught.

In 1944 Riley and Sheep Creek Municipal Districts amalgamated under the name of Highwood and a new office opened in High River. Turner Valley later united with Highwood and the district was called Sheep Creek for a short time before becoming Foothills M.D. No. 31 in 1954.

In 1964 the present spacious office housing Foothills M.D. and Foothills School Division was built in High River. Karl Christofferson represents the eastern part of the Cayley area, Marvin Miller represents the area to the west.

The building which housed Riley M.D. office in Cayley has been torn down. All that remains is the concrete vault.

Trails To Highways

Trails that wandered around low spots and hills unhampered by fences and converged on the village from all angles were the first district roads. The first highway was the Macleod Trail which passed by the village and on to skirt the edge of Squaw Coulee.

The first graded roads were dust or mud in the summer and drifted snow in the bad winters. We take our gravelled and hard-surfaced highways for granted today – but who could ever forget the trials of slithering over muddy roads and maybe sliding into the ditch – or being pulled through deep mud by a team or tractor! Or the many times we had to change our plans and stay home because the roads weren't fit to travel on.

Being by-passed is nothing new for Cayley. One of the first graded roads followed the general direction of the Old Macleod Trail south from High River to Sloanes and from there on south past Tiffins, then east two miles, and south over Mosquito Creek at Brakeys. It was known as the Blue and White Trail and was identified by a bar of blue, a bar of white and another of blue circling telephone poles at strategic distances. An alternate route turned at Sloanes and came through Cayley.

The first gravelled highway was put through about 1926 and was routed south of High River to McNearney's corner, then east for a mile to Highview School, then south through Cayley, east past Houldens and south again.

The first "black top" followed straight south from a point one-half mile east of High River and was known as Highway Number 2. It passed by Cayley on the west side of the tracks. In 1960 the new Number 2 four-lane highway was built a mile east of the village and the old highway became 2A.

Gravelled roads now crisscross the countryside, and black-top market roads are being considered.

In the days of muddy side-roads farmers on a road sometimes pooled their resources and with the assistance of the Municipality gravelled sections before they would have otherwise been done.

Albert Henry Ducommun Family

The Ducommun family were originally French-speaking Swiss who emigrated to Iowa and from there to the Cayley and High River districts. Grandma and Grandpa Ducommun homesteaded land now owned by Mrs. L. Snodgrass, moving to the McNearny place – now owned by Ed Noad. Their daughter, Mrs. Newton Meyers and her husband homesteaded near her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Ducommun homesteaded five miles north-west of Cayley. The quarter was later sold to L. Couey and is now owned by Ross Giles. Mr. Ducommun used a team of oxen, Tom and Jerry, to break the prairie sod. When he decided to add a third ox to the team he bought one from Dan Keller. The ox was possibly a bit old for breaking to work, for he dragged Albert and Dan all through the mud before they got him under control.

Mrs. Ducommun remembers that raising a family was hard work in those days. Board floors were scrubbed with a brush, clothes scrubbed on a washboard. Sat-

urday night baths required a boiler of water on the stove and the wash tub which doubled as the bath tub on the floor. Baking, churning, sewing and gardening didn't leave much time for leisure. But there were compensations for the hard work, and Mrs. Ducommun received part of her reward years later when a daughter remarked, "I wouldn't want one minute of my childhood changed". Mrs. Ducommun recalls living for a time in Cayley and helping to care for Nurse Murray's patients. Part of the therapy for tuberculosis was cool air, but she felt that Nurse Murray had carried it a bit too far when one of her patients complained that his hot-water bottle had frozen in bed.

The Ducommuns went back to Iowa before the first war, and Albert's brother Fred took over the farm. The family returned to Alberta and lived on Grandpa Bauer's farm near High River, later moving into town. The family are Marie in Iowa, Evelyn (Mrs. Frank Merriam), May (Mrs. Bourbonnie), Lila (Mrs. Eric Brandes), Clyde, Elmer, Vernon, Leroy, Ernest, Irvine (deceased) and Laverne. Clyde and Elmer were born on the homestead. Albert P. Ducommun was a nephew.

Mr. Ducommun is deceased and Mrs. Ducommun still resides in High River.

The Carothers Families

The Carothers family came by covered wagon from Nez Perce, Idaho to Saskatchewan, or Assinaboia as it was then known. About 1904 they moved to the Cayley district and filed on a homestead a few miles northeast of the village. The father, Robert Carothers, was a brother of Mrs. Andrew Kinghorn. The sons were Frank, Walter and Arthur. The daughters were Clara and Birdie. The sons all took homesteads on neighboring quarter-sections. Art "squatted" on a water-right quarter but eventually got his title. The land was later sold to Ralph Chaffee who sold it to Henry Hanson. It is now the home quarter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hanson. Frank had a sod house for a short time, and later used it for a chicken house.

Frank's children were George, now of Portland, Oregon and Mabel (Gertie) also of Portland. Honey died at the age of seven. Walter had one daughter, Beryl, now Mrs. Edward Young. Arthur's family were Flossie, Dorothy, Ken, now all in Seattle, Bert in Portland, Bob and Myrtle deceased. Clara had one daughter who is now deceased.

The Carothers family were Seventh Day Adventists. They were not satisfied with the education their children were getting at the Cayley school so they fitted a grainery with desks and hired a young Adventist teacher, Miss Lillian Hilde, who came from North Dakota. Several other neighboring families also elected to send their children to the little school, but eventually the Department of Education required them to return to school in Cayley. Miss Hilde boarded at the different homes and her influence in the homes and with the children was not without fruit. At least two of her pupils became Adventist missionaries and served in foreign fields. Among the children who attended the school were Gertie, Ken, Frank, Flossie and Dorothy Carothers; Vergil, Velma and Ivor Fish; Cleo, Dorothy and Leota Houghton; Clinton, Frankie, Madge and Alberta Keller.

Walter Carothers was a capable blacksmith and machinist and opened a blacksmith shop along the road east of Cayley. When the gas line from Bow Island was laid in 1912 it traversed Walter's land. He allowed the pipes to be laid but refused the Company permission to put in telephone poles. He put up a sign saying that if the poles were placed on his land he would chop them down. The Company took due note and placed the poles down the west and across the south fence-lines and from there proceeded again on its established diagonal course. Walter

had hoped to instal the natural gas in his blacksmith shop, but possibly because of the pole espiode he wasn't allowed to. Or it may have been the other way around – possibly the Company refused permission to use the gas in his shop, so he refused them permission to cross his land with their poles. At any rate the poles still stand along the two fence lines, much to the relief of succeeding owners who have been spared the nuisance of farming around them.

Hendricks, Hoffman

Hendricks was the homesteader of the quarter immediately west of Charlie Browns. Hendricks sold to Jake Hoffman and Jake sold to Bill Eaglesham before moving to Vulcan. Only an old well-casing now marks the site of the homestead buildings.

Joseph Comstock

Joseph Comstock worked on the ranches in the early days. He married Olvie Gaines and homesteaded SW 6-17-30-W4 on Mosquito Creek. The family is Irwin, Raymond, Richard, Leonard, Lewis, Marjory and Doreen.

The Utterburgs

The Utterburgs unloaded their car of settler's effects in Cayley in 1905, homesteading NW 16-17-27-W4. Mr. Utterburg died not long after and his widow married George Garfield, foreman on the YT Ranch. Millie Utterburg married Mack Kane, a hotel man from Nanton. Other members of the family were Jack, Bob, Clarence and Duggan. Jack homesteaded too.

James Creighton

Jim Creighton was a bachelor who homesteaded in Squaw Coulee near the Buffalo Jump site. The land is now owned by Alf Sloane.

Arthur Foster

Arthur Foster homesteaded NE 18-17-27-W4. The Arthur School district was named for him.

William Fleet

William Fleet was a man in his late 60's when he bought Section 17-17-27-W4. He built a large house and barn and broke up the section which he later sold.

Jack Matheson

Jack Matheson was an old race-horse man. His homestead was north-west of Cayley, near Squaw Coulee.

Bennett

The Hogge farm was homesteaded by a red-headed Irishman named Bennett. He had one daughter.

Neil Plummer

The Neil Plummer family homesteaded Willard Barker's farm. There were two girls in the family. The Plummers left Cayley for the Coast.

Harry Bowers

Harry Bowers was a bachelor who homesteaded the quarter south of Brockways. He didn't remain in the district long after proving up his land.

John Shaw

John Shaw family came in 1903 to the present Donato dePaoli farm. were four children in the family three of whom were Rachel, Cornelious and Wesley. Mr. Shaw was one of the original trustees on the first Cayley School Board.

Captain Ernest Fey

Captain Fey had served at Hong Kong before coming to homestead in Rocky Coulee. His land was later sold to Wm. Caspell.

N. Mosgrove

N. Mosgrove purchased Section 17-17-27-W4. He sold the east half of the section to Samuel Beemer of Virginia. Mr. Beemer operated the land for three years, then sold it. Mr. Musgrove broke up the west half of the section and turned it over to his son-in-law, Felix Moran.

Charlie Thruin

Homesteaded a short distance east of town. He had a steam plough and did extensive breaking on the CC Ranch. The Thruin place was over-run with tame rabbits.

Charles Nelson

Charles Nelson homesteaded the Scragg place. He was an old railroad man and a brother-in-law of John Marth. He was not related to his neighbor Adolphe Nelson.

Adolphe Nelson

Adolphe Nelson homesteaded the Atcheson place. In 1910 he sold the land to Herb George for $25.00 an acre and George sold it to Atcheson in 1918 for $75.00 an acre.

Holcar

Holcar, a bachelor, came with Arthur and Lewis LePatourel to Canada. He homesteaded SE 28-17-27-W4.

A.B. McDonagh

Alexander Benjamin McDonagh and Maria Robinson were both born in Huron County, Onatrio and were married in 1880 in Aberdeen, South Dakota, where A.B. had a homestead. They farmed there, then near Fargo, N. Dakota; then near Winnipeg and on November 19th, 1904, they arrived at their homestead south of Cayley (later the Brockway farm). They had five children, Verner and Erle who had been born in S. Dakota; Clara and Russell, born in N. Dakota; and Frank, born in Manitoba.

For the first few days they camped on their new land. At night they slept under an overturned wagon box. Then their neighbor, Harry Bowerman, gave them the use of his homestead shack as he was leaving for a visit to the States.

The McDonaghs built a one room shack as fast as possible in preparation for

the cold winter. In the spring a very mild spell thawed the ground so early that on the 4th, 5th, and 6th of March, 1905, Mr. McDonagh broke up a field of sod. It froze up again but later he seeded this field to oats and the next fall to winter wheat.

There was no place to market grain here. In 1906 or 7 A.B. McDonagh and Bob Carruthers raised enough wheat to jointly fill a grain car – shovelling the grain from the wagon boxes into the car and then about two relays to the back of the car – a big job. This car of wheat was consigned to Winnipeg to a company of grain handlers named, "Randle, Gee & Mitchell". The car was weighed in Calgary – was overweight so A.B. had to take the train to Calgary, buy sacks, get a livery wagon and remove the extra wheat from the car before it could continue on to Winnipeg. McDonagh and Carrothers received their payment in cash through the mail – simply tied in a small tobacco sack with a name tag attached.

In 1917 A.B. sold his farm to Lem Sexsmith and moved to Kelowna where he lived until his death in 1936. Mrs. McDonagh moved to High River and made her home with Russell until her death.

Verner lives in Kelowna, B.C. and Frank at Saginaw, Michigan; Russell and Clara (Henderson) live in High River and Erle on a farm east of Cayley.

Erle McDonagh

Erle homesteaded near the north end of Frank Lake – NE ¼-5-19-27-W4. In 1912 he sold this and moved back to the Cayley district, buying the quarters owned by his brother Verner and Charlie Howard.

In 1918 he married Edna Charles and they had a family of four boys; Kermit, now of Bluffton, Alberta, Charles of Valley View, Milton of Rimbey and Bill on the home place.

During the second world war the three older boys served with the armed services. Bill took over his father's farm when Erle and Edna moved a mile or so to the bank of the Little Bow where they had purchased a half section from the "Hawkeye Ranch", S ½-26-17-27-W4.

Edna passed away in 1962.

Bill married June Beamer. Their three daughters are Julia, Joanne and Peggy.

Jim and Mary Clever

Mr. Jim Clever and wife Mary came to this district in 1904 and left in 1911. They lived between Cayley and Nanton. The children attended school at Braemar if there was room for them, if not, they went to Nanton. Mr. Clever owned land in both school districts. They liked Braemar best as they could skate on the ponds in the winter and in summer the favorite pastime was snaring gophers. The older boys were often excused from school to fight prairie fires.

The family included Earl who left the district in 1909. He passed away in 1951 at Sardis, B.C. Edith is deceased. Fern married Gordon Caspell and still lives in Nanton. Maud passed away in 1907 and Jenny married William Barker at Sardis and now lives at Port Kells, B.C.

Mr. Clever passed away at Sardis, B.C. in 1924 and his wife in 1927.

Fern Caspell

Arthur Wells

Mr. Wells came west from Ontario about 1905 and bought a farm west of Cayley, the land now owned by the Couey family. He moved to the Reid Hill district

and homesteaded there for a few years and then bought a ranch at Cochrane.

He was a very good cook and quite often entertained the Beaton family. One of the family remembers him offering Bessie twenty five cents if she could keep quiet for the next hour!

Mr. Wells passed away at Cochrane in 1961.

Johnny Marth

Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Marth homesteaded the present Ed Elves place. Johnny built a bank-barn in the hill and on top of the barn constructed a wooden tower with a ten-foot wooden wind-wheel to run a feed mill. Here he took in custom feed grinding for neighboring farmers. It was quite an efficient arrangement. The farmers unloaded their grain on the upper level and loaded up their feed on the lower level. Johnny could grind only on windy days, but the breezes blew enough to to keep things going fairly regularly.

Mr. and Mrs. Marth, who had no children, sold their farm to Albert Robblee.

The McConkey Families

James McConkey of St. Mary's, Ontario knew he wanted to try life somewhere else, but he wasn't sure whether he would go to Australia or to western Canada. Western Canada won and the fall of 1903 found him at Cayley, Northwest Territories. He selected a homestead for himself a few miles south-east of town and purchased the joining quarter, giving him the south half of 17-28-W4. He then filed by proxy on homesteads west of town for his father and his brother, John, who both came West soon after.

In 1905 Mrs. Robert McConkey, with her youngest son Oswald, left the home in Ontario to join her husband and elder sons. Crossing, on the train, the endless emptiness of prairie with only here and there a tar-paper shack filled her with foreboding. It was after dark when the train reached Cayley so she and Oswald spent the night at the Cayley Hotel. When morning came she went to the window and saw, to the west, the rolling foothills and beyond them the Rockies standing clear and blue in the early light. Her apprehension gave way to relief and she said to herself "This will do".

Miss Florence McConkey, who had studied art in Philadelphia and Toronto, joined the other members of the family in 1911. Oswald, who had returned to the East to continue his education, came west again and homesteaded at Cereal.

In 1915 Jim and Laura Elves were married and moved into the spacious home with which Jim had replaced his homestead shack. Two children were born to them. Gordon, now of Edmonton, and Helen, now Mrs. J.M. Thomson of Calgary. The Jim McConkey farm was sold to Bill Brewster and is now owned by Lloyd and Verone Caspell. Mr. and Mrs. McConkey are both deceased.

Oswald served with the Canadian forces in both Great wars and attained the rank of Colonel. He was later posted to General Eisenhower's staff at Allied Headquarters to work toward rehabilitation in Europe. He had graduated from Cambridge with a PhD degree and became internationally recognized as an authority on soil conservation. This led to his appointment to serve in China with UNNRA and FAO of the United Nations. While serving in China Dr. McConkey introduced new varieties of food and new forage crops. His book "Conservation in Canada" was published in 1951. In 1965 he established a research scholarship to Ontario Agricultural College.

Miss Florence McConkey and her brother John, neither of whom had ever married, cared for their parents in their old age, and in later years retired to High River. Florence passed away in 1963 and John in 1964. Their farm was sold to H.G. Walker.

Mr.and Mrs. Herb Palmer

In May or June of 1905, my father, B.S. Baker, and my brother, Archie, left Sandpoint, Idaho, with settlers effects in a railroad car. Two horses in one end, and our household stuff in the other end, where they slept during the trip. My mother with a month old baby girl, my sister Frances and I came by train. I remember the train stopping for everyone to see the Frank Slide which had happened a year or so before. We saw our first gophers out of the train windows. We had to stop at Macleod. It was quite a distance from the station to the hotel and in between the grass was the vivid green of early spring. I remember so well crossing it, my mother with the new baby and my sister Frances and I (5 and 7 years of age) trying to carry our things. Also the man at the hotel carrying a large pitcher of water up the stairs for us. I thought that was marvellous.

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Palmer

We came to High River and lived there about a year. We were lucky to get a small house on the flats. It is still there and in later years it was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ewart Windsor. In 1905 it was small and we had to store many of our things, including the organ, in a tent along side of the house.

Next year my father bought a homestead six miles west of Nanton where he built a shack first, until he could get a house built for us. This shack had the window in the roof, on account of the cattle, for they were everywhere.

I remember a Christmas about 1908 or 1909, going to Nanton with my mother and driving home in the bitter cold with one lone box of Japanese oranges, nothing more. I remember being in one store (it is still there, across from Denoons Meat Market) and there were dolls and dolls and dolls. Oh how I wanted one! If I hadn't seen them or nothing had been said about Christmas I wouldn't have minded, but I can see them yet and remember the disappointment of nothing.

Our first winter on the homestead was the terrible winter of 1906 and 1907. No need to tell of that for so many have already. But I remember vividly the joy of that first spring when every buffalo wallow was brimming with lovely soft snow water. I'm so thankful I can remember the beauty of the prairies as they were before they were ripped up by the plows. The crocus, wild roses, lupine, yellow buffalo beans, scarlet vetch, low rose mallows, tiny moss phlox and the grass as high as ones knees. This memory is something to treasure always.

The first grain threshed on our place was done with a machine without a blower. The straw had to be moved away with a fork or a man with a team and a plank. My father had a homemade grinder, run by four horses. Each horse was hooked to one of the large spokes and they travelled in a circle. Round and round, supplying

the power for grinding.

It had been very cold for sometime the winter of 1915 and the windows had a heavy sheet of ice on all of them when a really warm chinook hit. I was going from window to window mopping up the ice water with towels, when zip, the whole sheet of ice let go and crashed on the floor. It was so heavy and was melting so fast that it couldn't cling to the glass. I lived in Alberta from 1905 to 1959 and never knew this to happen before or since. This same chinook is reported in the November issue of 1965 Readers Digest on page 247, and it says in Calgary the temperature rose from 14 to 76 degrees. Also in Havre, Montana, it rose 31 degrees in three minutes.

Then there were our teachers, our first was Miss Denis and the second was Miss Widdis. How we loved those early teachers! One day Miss Widdus lost her purse in crossing a stony pasture. In as much as she followed the same course always, the driest route, it should have been easy to find, but it was never found until about 50 years later. Ben Johnson, one of the original pupils found it. The leather was hard and brittle and the bills disintegrated, but the change was still in good shape and all was turned over to her descendants.

I remember the time so many of our neighbours and ourselves went to the Calgary Fair and Exposition on the 4th of July in 1908. At that time both the first and the 4th were celebrated, for over half of the early settlers were Americans. Our train left in the evening for home but there was such a load of people it had to be divided and taken up a hill south of Calgary in two sections. So we didn't reach home until sun-up next day. A trip that takes less than one hour now by car.

In 1917 I married Herbert Palmer and moved to the next district north of us, near Cayley. There we did not homestead, but had more homestead trials for we started in on raw land, and also had to pay for it. But we were young and strong and troubles did not set so heavy then. I think our greatest trial was lack of water. Above all things we did not want to have to haul water, so within a week of the time we moved on the place we had a driller there and we had a well, with a sand point. They were gone with our $200.00 and we had the same as nothing. It took the two of us pumping hard to get one bucket and it was so hard and had so much iron in it that we couldn't use it. Before giving up the use of this water, I was daily bathing our little son in it, and supposed he was just dark, but when I went to stay with my folks for a week at Chatauqua time and had the use of the water there, I found I had a different colored baby. One much lighter! Eventually we got a wonderful well. Thirty seven years later the hot water tank is still in use, proving the quality of the water.

From there on I could hardly call it pioneering. It was just the usual run of good years and hail storms and trying to pay for our land and so on. But I am thankful for those hard times. It gives one backbone and a sense of values not to be had otherwise.

The winter of 1919 started in on the 15th of October and there were only two breaks until the 5th of May. Those two chinooks took most of the snow off and it was such a run-off that they took out our bridge on Mosquito Creek twice that winter. Feed was scarce and very high in price and many of those who tried to keep their cattle and bought feed for them never did get on their feet again.

Then in 1929 we built our house. It was almost finished when the crash of 1929 came. It was hard picking for a good many years but we never had the hard times in our district that they had further east and in Saskatchewan. Many of our

crops were bountiful although prices were on rock bottom.

Squaw Coulee ended in our home pasture. It ran in a northwest direction from our place to the south west end of High River. There are still rings of stones down in the pasture near Mosquito Creek where the Indians used to come. The stones, I understand, were used to hold down their tents.

My husband, Herbert A. Palmer, was born in Scotchtown, New Brunswick of United Empire Loyalist stock. He worked for several years on the survey for the Transcontinental railway, and 1912 came west on a home-seeker's excursion train.

He homesteaded at Steveville and in 1916 bought the George Wickens homestead which was our home until 1946 when our son Irving took it over. He farmed it it until his death in 1962. His daughter Phyllis and her husband, Jack Shier have taken over the farm.

We had two children; Irving, and Pearl (Mrs. Brick Morrison) of Lumby, B.C. Irvings wife, Winnifred, is at Canmore and their son Larry is attending school at Cayley.

We are living now, July 1966, near Kelowna, B.C. We came here in May of 1959. It is one of the loveliest places we could ever wish for in our old age. But if we were young again we would certainly want to be back on the prairies.

Edith Baker Palmer

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Sinclair

Donald Sinclair and his wife (sister of Mrs. Nichol Scott) of Grey County, Ontario came west in 1905 when they were married, to live on a homestead, the land was just north of the present Sloane home. In 1912 or 13 they moved to the Steveville district and took up a homestead.

The Sinclairs are scattered now. Mr. Sinclair died in 1939 and his wife now lives with her only daughter, Jessie Sinclair, in Calgary. Malcom is the Town secretary at Vulcan. Walter and his family are across the street from me here in Burnaby, B.C. Gordon and family are in Waterloo, Ontario, while Allen and his family are on his grandfather's farm north of Vulcan.

Ella Scott Lewis

Did you ever wonder how the early settlers made yeast?

Salt-raising Bread

While getting breakfast in the morning, as soon as the tea-kettle has boiled, take a quart tin cup or an earthen quart milk pitcher, scald it, then fill one-third full of water about as warm as the finger could be held in; then to this add a teaspoon of salt, a pinch of brown sugar and coarse flour enough to make a batter of about the right consistency for griddle-cakes. Set the cup up, with the spoon in it,. in a closed vessel half-filled with water moderately hot, but not scalding. Keep the temperature as nearly even as possible and add a teaspoonful of flour once or twice during the process of fermentation. The yeast ought to reach to the top of the bowl in about five hours. Sift your flour into a pan, make an opening in the centre and pour in the yeast. Have ready a pitcher of warm milk, salted, or milk and water (not too hot, or you will scald the yeast germs), and stir rapidly into a pulpy mass with a spoon. Cover this sponge closely and keep warm for an

hour, then knead into loaves, adding flour to make the proper consistency. Place in warm, well-greased pans, cover closely and leave till it is light. Bake in a steady oven, and when done let all the hot steam escape. Wrap closely in damp towels and keep in closed earthen jars until it is wanted.

Will and Effie Saulcey Sec. 8.17.28. W4

In the spring of 1907 the U.P. Railroad had a special train to Alberta from Denver. My husband, Will Saulcey and a neighbor heard about a new irrigation project going on in Alberta and that irrigation farmers were wanted there. I went along to visit a brother at Red Deer and also had relatives at Cayley, and Aunt Carrie, Mrs. Charlie Chaffee and my grandmother, Bertha Vanskiver who lived with the Chaffees. Will fell in love with Cayley so we came back in January of 1908 and bought a farm 1½ miles S.E. of Cayley. It had a big 8 room house, two stories, and a large barn.

Esther, our girl was seven years old and went to a school west of the tracks and in 1909 went to the school in the town. Our 5 year old boy, Richard, took her back and forth to school on his pony. In 1910 we moved to High River.

There was not a church in Cayley when we went there and services were held in the town hall.

We moved back to Colorado in December, 1913.

Mrs. Saulcey, Loveland, Colorado

Charles H. Gribble

Charles H. Gribble was born at Cameron, Cornwall, England in 1839. He came as a very young boy, with his mother and other children of the family, to join his father who had established a home in southern Wisconsin.

He was married to Catherine McGinnis, who was born at Castle Bar, County Mayo, Ireland in 1845. After their marriage they went to Hazel Green, Wisconsin where they made their home until they moved to Lawrence, Kansas. They made this trip with their 5 children, overland, by covered wagon. They remained in Lawrence for a good many years until their children were educated and married. The flood of 1903 carried away their home and they went to Formosa, Kansas, where their son Charles was living.

They came to Canada in the fall of 1909 with their eldest daughter, Clara Brown. In the spring of 1910, Charles took a homestead about 7 miles west of his son-in-law's place. About 5 years later, they sold this land and moved their house to the Brown homestead and lived there until their deaths.

They celebrated their golden wedding on their farm and their diamond wedding at their son's home in Cayley. Each year Grandma Gribble's neighbors and friends, and ladies from Cayley came to help her celebrate her birthday.

Charles Gribble was a charter member of the Odd Fellows Lodge. He died in October, 1931 at the age of 92 years and Catherine passed away in March 1936, at the age of 90.

Charles J. Gribble Family

Charles J. Gribble was born on March 15, 1873 at Port Leyden, New York, He married May Lyons of Formosa, Kansas and they had one child, Frances. After the death of his wife, he later married Flora Cleland of Formosa.

In the late summer of 1909, Charlie came to Alberta to visit his brother-in-law, Norman Brown, and to look the country over. He liked it and purchased a half section from Mr. Swimm. This place had been the original homestead of a Mrs. Brooks.

In November of 1909, he brought a carload of settlers' effects and livestock. The family – Mrs. Gribble, Frances, and their new baby, Donald – came to Cayley in the spring of 1910. They made their home at the farm until the children, Donald and Kathryn, were old enough for school, at which time they bought a house in Cayley to live in during the school year but Charley continued with the farming and cattle, west of Cayley. He also had farm land north and east of Cayley. The present Cayley school is on part of this land.

When the children finished school at Cayley, Charley rented the Butler place on the little Bow and the family moved there to live and the house in Cayley was sold to the Brewster brothers. They continued to live on this place until Charley was injured in an auto accident, west of McLeod. He did not recover and passed away in December of 1936.

Charles Gribble was a Mason for most of his life. To the best of knowledge, he was a 32nd degree Mason, a member of the High River Blue Lodge, and a Shriner.

Mrs. Gribble passed away in May, 1953.

Frances married Bob Walker and had two children, Orma and Donald. She passed away in December, 1940.

Donald and his wife Marguerite have two sons, Charles and George, and are living in New Ulm, Minnesota.

Kathryn married Laverne Overand of Okotoks. They have one son, David, and are living in Edmonton.

Art Davis

Art Davis came from Kansas in 1909. He was in Nanton first then homesteaded at Youngstown in 1910. After the homestead was proved up he worked for H. Wingate and Charlie Phillips, then farmed Sect. 1-17-28-W4. He moved to Santa Cruz, California where he still resides.

Robert and Phoebe Houlden

Robert Houlden and Phoebe McCurdy were married at Stirling, Ont. in 1904. Mr. Houlden operated seven greenhouses and a truck garden in partnership with his brother at Frankford, Ontario, hauling the produce by team and wagon to Belleville and Trenton.

In March 1909 he heard the call of the West and came to Edmonton. After staying there for one week he learned that there was good farm land for sale in the High River district so he came down and stayed at Mrs. Jack Freeman's Hotel, the Astoria, for almost a month while looking for land. He was quite interested

in a section on the Little Bow which could have been bought for half the price of land at Cayley but after learning that it had been hailed out the previous three years he decided to buy a half section half a mile south of Cayley from Mr. John Gardner. This land cost twenty five dollars an acre and had thirty acres broke. In 1910 he hired the Kitchens' to break up the remainder of it. It was a dry year and no grain to sell. In 1911 oats were six feet high but the wheat was frozen.

After getting settled and the crops in he returned to Ontario and brought his wife and family back to Cayley in July, 1909. They had six children, George and the twins, Miles and Mary, were born at Frankford, Ontario. Mary died in October, 1909. Addie, John and Lillian were born at Cayley.

In 1925 Mr. Houlden purchased the Edward Walker herd of Registered Herefords. On September 1st, 1929, Mr. Houlden passed away while hauling grain by team and wagon to the elevator at Cayley. Mrs. Houlden passed away in January, 1934. George and Miles farm their father's farm in partnership and still raise purebred Herefords.

George married Beatrice Hogle, Secretary with the Ontario Dept. of Agriculture, at Stirling, Ontario in 1929. They have two daughters, June (Mrs. Murray Malyon) of Calgary and Carol, (Mrs. Gordon Rasmusen) of High River. They have seven grandchildren, Lynne and Peter Malyon; Ross, Roy, Carl, Sue Ann and Lee Rasmusen. George has been a member of the High River General Hospital Board since 1956. In 1965 his wife received a Citation and Medal from the Red Cross Society for many years of service.

In 1941 Miles married Leona Nelson, daughter of Henry Nelson and Minola (Still) of Pekisko. They have three children, Kenneth attending the University of Calgary, Verna (Mrs. Al Brunet) teaching in Calgary and Robert with the Western Geophysical Company in the North. Miles is presently the Leader of the Cayley 4-H Club.

Addie was a music teacher at Cayley prior to her marriage to Stanley J. Evans in 1936. They retired to Victoria in July, 1966. They have two sons, Robert, a Technology Engineer at Vancouver and Grant, teaching in Toronto.

John was a teacher at Peell Coulee School and married the teacher at Braemar School, Helen Fowler, in 1936. He taught at Vanrena in the Peace River and at Airdrie before going to Okalta Oils in Turner Valley. He later joined Mobil Oils in Calgary as Purchasing Agent. They had two sons and one daughter. Jack and his wife, Marilyn, are in Calgary and Jack is with the I.B.M. Company. Gayle (Mrs. Keith Moss) lives at Red Deer where Keith teaches High School. They have one son, Bradley David. Gordon is still attending school. John passed away in 1962 and Helen is teaching school.

In 1935 Lillian married Wentworth Brinton and lived at Kirkcaldy where he was Wheat Pool Agent until his death in 1955. There are four sons; Earl and wife Sharon and family are at Carmanguay where he is Principal of the school. Ronald was with the Vulcan Advocate and is now studying in Toronto. Howard and wife Charlotte and daughter are in Calgary where he is in Business Administration with the T. Eaton Co. Charles is attending University in Calgary and Lillian is a Dentist Assistant in Vulcan.

From 1911 when George started school at Cayley until 1965 there had been just one year, 1935, when there wasn't a Houlden attending the Cayley school.

Mr. Houlden was so pleased that he had chosen the Cayley district to settle in and enjoyed the beautiful view of foothills and mountains from his home.

Albert and Maggie Ducommun

Albert landed in Cayley in March, 1909 and took up farming. He returned to Cleghorn, Iowa, and we (Maggie Kenzel) were married on December 2nd, 1909. We arrived at Cayley on Christmas Eve to spend Christmas with Albert's family and in the coming spring we moved on to the Dave Grieve place where we lived for forty years with the exception of two years when we lived east of Cayley on the old Nelson farm.

It was very dry in 1910 and we had to buy more seed to sow the 1911 crop. It turned out to be a wet year. Like all the oldtimers, we struggled along, farming, threshing and everything that made a cent.

Albert was very fond of base ball and pitched for the Cayley team. He always had a team of young lads and one of young girls which we enjoyed taking from place to place to play their games. We also belonged to a card club and took turns having the group in our homes in the early days. Albert loved to go hunting, especially for moose, and got his share.

I remember seeing what I thought was an Indian coming up the railroad track so I quickly hid the eggs under the bed and took the 22 rifle and went out to the field where Albert was. He said it was a squaw and I should go and pump her a cold drink but I was too frightened and told him if he wanted her to have a drink he'd have to pump it himself. I never lived that down!

We sold our farm to Oswald Bertoia and moved to Calgary in October, 1950. Albert passed away in 1963.

Maggie Ducommun

NOTE: Mrs. Ducommun passed away December, 1966.

The Hills

Watt, Minnie, Bob, Joe and Emma Hill came from Clifford, Ontario. Watt came to Weyburn, Sask. in 1906 with a carload of settler's effects for Mr. W. Eaglesham and worked there for three years. He came to Alberta with the Eaglesham family in 1909 where he still worked for several years. After leaving there he and his brother Bob rented the Snodgrass farm (now owned by Irvin Brockway) for a few years before moving to Bow Island where he filed on a homestead. After proving up on this land he moved back to Cayley and rented the Charlie Shortt farm for quite a number of years.

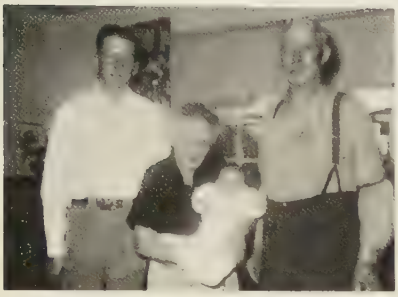
Bob Hill also worked for Mr. Eaglesham for some years before renting the Snodgrass farm, he took up a homestead at Bow Island also. After returning to Cayley he bought the farm now owned by Leighton Arnold and rented to Alvin Jewell. In 1945 when he sold his farm he moved to B.C.

Emma Hill kept house for her brothers at Cayley and also at Bow Island where she was married later. In 1918 during the Flu epidemic she passed away leaving two young daughters, Doris and Esther, whom Mrs. Hall raised.

After serving in the first World War Joe Hill came to Cayley and in 1925 he took over the Imperial Oil Agency from Mr. Hall. Later he built a large chicken house with living quarters above. He sold this to Mr. and Mrs. A. Christianson in 1951. Joe passed away December 26, 1951.

Watt Hill was using his "Popping Johnnie" tractor to pull a wagon, the wagon and tractor being separated by a chain. Because of the noise of the tractor Watt didn't hear the train coming. He crossed the tracks with his tractor but the rushing train snapped the chain before the wagon got across. Neither Tractor, wagon nor Watt were damaged.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Rasmusen



Mr. & Mrs. Herman Rasmusen, grandson Gordon & greatgrandson Ross.

Mr. Rasmusen was born at Vila, Denmark on November 3, 1875. Mrs. Rasmusen was also born in Denmark. In 1904 Mr. Rasmusen and Julia Larsen were married at Blair, Nebraska. They came to Cayley in 1909 and farmed on the Sloane homestead west of Squaw Coulee until retiring to Cochrane in 1944 to be near their daughter Christina.

They had four children, Wilbur in San Francisco, California, Carl at San Diego, California and Albert farming on the home place. Christina (Mrs. John Milligan) lives at Cochrane.

Mr. Rasmusen passed away in 1963 and Mrs. Rasmusen is presently making her home with her son Albert on the farm.

James Sutherland

James (Jack) Sutherland was born at Embro, Ontario, Oct. 7, 1889. At the age of 18, he came west to Weyburn, Sask. on a harvest excursion, although he returned home for the winter, he headed back west the following spring and homesteaded in the Youngstown area where he stayed for five years. He was told that if he came to Southern Alberta he could become a cowboy, so in February, 1909 he arrived in Calgary, where he worked for a few days and then on to Nanton where he found work as a cowboy and horse wrangler. He worked for the Glendenning Brothers, whose holdings were located east of Cayley.

He recalls at this time it was all open prairie and life was very primitive and the work hard. He only made two trips a year to town, when he went for coal it was a two day trip with four horses and two wagons. There was no recreation and he worked seven days a week. The first year he was here he went to town once, to attend the High River fair.

The house on the ranch where he worked had a mud floor and the food consisted of dried and smoked beef and dried fruit, his wages were $30.00 a month.

In 1916 he purchased a quarter of land on the Little Bow for $25.00 an acre, which is now part of the 1600 acres he farms with his two sons Earl and Wilson.

In 1920 he married Jessie Munro of Chamberlain, Sask. and raised a family of

four sons, Roy, Joe, Earl and Wilson and three daughters, Florence, Loreen and Maddlyn. Mrs. Sutherland died in 1941 and in 1947 Mr. Sutherland married a former High River girl, Mrs. Lillian Hamilton, who was a daughter of one of the districts early settlers, Lem Sexsmith. His second wife died in 1956. He boasts of having twenty seven grand children from both marriages.

In 1920 he was elected as a councillor and travelled to Cayley to the meetings by saddlehorse. He has been a councillor on the Municipal District of Foothills for 47 years, 43 of them as Reeve and is still enjoying it.

He has been a good neighbor and friend to everyone who knew him through the years – turning his hand to being Santa Clause, or turning out a good home cooked meal, for a visitor. He has also donated his services to many community efforts during his lifetime.

NOTE: Mr. Sutherland passed away March 18, 1967.

Jasper Burns Family

Jasper N. Burns, his wife Lola and family left Oklahoma in 1910 for Cayley, Alberta where they remained until 1920 when they went to Kent, Washington. As I remember we lived on three different farms. One was Arthur Wells home, one was a two-story home just below Frank Shier's farm. Then we moved into the Elves home next to the Post Office in Cayley. We children, with the exception of Bessie and Blanche, went to school in Cayley.

Phillip Burns served with the 137th Battalion in World War One, and was overseas for three years. Cecil Burns worked at the Post Office and Telephone Office in Cayley when George Ferris was the owner. J.N. Burns was a member of the Odd Fellow's Lodge, Mrs. Burns and Cecil were members of Fernleaf Rebekah Lodge. Bessie Burns married J.A. Baker and lived her life in Canada. She passed away June 28, 1956. Blanche (Mrs. Evans) of Issaquah, Washington passed away in 1953. Phillip is in Seattle, Washington, Cecil (Mrs. Webb) is at Castro Valley, California, Dan is at Centralia, Washington, Francis is at Seal Beach, California. Hanford of Seattle passed away in 1966. Jasper Burns lived until he was 93 years, Lola to 91.

James A. Baker

Jim Baker came from Liberty, Kansas. In 1913 he married Miss Bessie Burns. They worked on the Keystone Ranch and later purchased a farm east of Cayley. Their first baby, Agnes was born in 1918 and died in 1920. James Allen was born in 1921 and Lola in 1922. They bought the J.E. Houghton farm in 1930. Some years later they sold it to Joe Feyrer and retired to High River.

Jim is remembered for his original bits of homespun philosophy. He once remarked "I always like to watch the little cats in the barn. Seems like it takes the curse off milking".

Jim and Mrs. Baker are both deceased. Lola is Mrs. W. Meacher of Ft. Collins Colorado and Allen is a well-known auctioneer and owner of the Bar U Ranch.

J. Allen Baker

As a boy Allen liked working with livestock. He raised pigs first then switched to calves. While still in his teens he began working with Tom Merriam of High River, and it is to Mr. Merriam that Allen gives full credit for instruction in the fine points of buying and selling beef. Tom had a lot of faith in his pupil too

and would give Allen a free rein when it came to buying. Timidity had no part in Allen's make-up and some of the risks he took scared the pants off the veteran stock-man.

Another important decision for Allen was going to Decatur, Indiana for a course in auctioneering. The farm sales he called in his own community brought him auctions in a much wider sphere. He gained international recognition as an auctioneer of pure-bred cattle and has had purebred Hereford sales in Denver, Colorado, Montana and other parts of the States and in every province, from British Columbia to Ontario, in Canada.

Mrs. Baker is the former Joyce VanWinkle of High River. After their marriage Allen bought the McNearney place. In 1950 he bought the famous Bar U Ranch from Burns where the family have since resided. The McNearney place was sold to E. Noad. In 1964 Allen was appointed to the Canadian Farm Credit Corporation to represent Alberta in an advisory capacity.

Allen and Joyce have seven children – Judy, Karen, Jimmy, Joy, Gloria, Kathleen and Christine.

Nichol and Margaret Scott Family

My father and mother, Nichol and Margaret Scott (nee Carr) were both born and brought up in Ontario in Grey County, where my brother Robert and I were born. In 1908 my father and brother came to Alberta on the harvest excursion. As Donald Sinclair married my mother's sister in 1905 and was living on a homestead, the land just north of the present Sloane home – it was quite natural that my folks went there for the harvest. The next year they again made the trip for the harvest.

L to R: Brother, Jack, Will, Bernice and Irma Christie, Mother, hired girl, Father. Taken in the late 20's.

Since my father, by this time, had developed "Western Fever", he rented the "Drake" place (the present Sloane farm) and in the spring of 1910 he and my brother accompanied a carload of settler's effects to that place. In the meantime, as I was still in school, Mother and I stayed on in the home in Dundalk with the men coming back for each winter. In September of 1913 I had finished high school, so we moved to Cayley.

As the Steveville district had been opened for homesteading in 1912 or 13, the Sinclairs and my father and brother had all filed on land there. When my mother and I arrived at Cayley we found the Sinclairs had already moved to Steveville. Later we also went over and spent the winter there, returning to Cayley in the spring.

In 1916 we rented the Steveville land to neighbors and bought the farm now owned by Jack Christie and settled permanently at Cayley. Up to this time our transportation was all horse drawn, but I think it was that year we acquired our

first "Tin Lizzie". It was the spring of 1916 that I went in training for a nurse. My father and brother had a steam threshing outfit and did custom threshing and also new breaking.

We were Presbyterians until Union when we went to the United Church. Father was a steward in the Presbyterian church while Mother was president of the W.M.S. I believe. Father was also a choir member.

After I graduated I returned to Cayley as mother was ill. I was also in the choir and the W.M.S. My mother's health slowly improved and Father's deteriorated. In 1923 he had his nephew, Will Christie, build his modern bungalow which is Jack's home now.

In February of 1936 my brother Bob who was not married, died suddenly from monoxide fumes from the lighting plant. As he was then the mainstay of the farm, father had to make some arrangements for the farming. So the next year he made an agreement with the Christies so they moved on to the farm and took over the work.

Father died in 1940 and Mother in 1941, the Christies then getting possession. As you will see, the only relatives of mine now in the Cayley district are the Christie Family. I married Dave Lewis in 1923.

Ella Scott Lewis

Dave and Ella Lewis

Dave Lewis came from his native Wales to the B.C. Coast and from there to Alberta and Cayley sometime in late 1914. He worked for Charles Gribble for a time, then went to the CC Ranch and was foreman there for several years. In 1922 he was offered the chance of renting, which he took. So when we married in 1923 the CC Ranch was our home. We lived there until 1925 and then bought a farm in the Buffalo Hills district that spring.

My husband and I lived on the Buffalo Hills farm until January 1947 when we bought the farm at Okotoks. He died there in April of 1964, but as we had bought the property in Burnaby, B.C. a couple of years before and had spent some time there, I came back to Burnaby to reside.

Ella Scott Lewis

Mr. and Mrs. H.E. George

Mr. and Mrs. Herb George came to Cayley in 1910 from Ingersoll, Ontario. They purchased the section of land now operated by Roy Henderson one mile south east of Cayley.

They had three children, Mary and Clayton, twins, born about 1906 and Lloyd born in 1912 at Cayley.

Mrs. George played the piano and accompanied many of the local singers at U.F.A. suppers and other entertainments during her eight years at Cayley.

Herb George hired a lot of help to farm the section of land and in later years the half section north of the MacMillan Colony. He would ship in carloads of feeder pigs from Ontario and feed them in a large hog house which has since been torn down. He also built a large barn and milked about forty holstein cows. The

original barn was the size of the present barn but had a leanto on the south side which stabled thirty work horses. The cattle were pastured on the open section which the C & E Land Co. owned just surrounding and east of the village of Cayley.

We used to skate on the ponds near the George house and the winter that Mrs. George, Mary and Lloyd went back to Ontario for a visit, Clayton, Miles and I ate a lot of bread and gooseberry jam at Herb's expense. When going to school Clayton, Lynne Walker and I were swimming in a pond near the railroad north of town and when the train came from the north we just stayed under the water. When the school bell rang at fifteen minutes to one we ran back on the track to get into our clothes. Clayton had left one sock on the rail and it was cut off just above the ankle. How would you explain that to Mother when you weren't supposed to go swimming?

The Georges sold to J.W. Atcheson in 1918 and moved back to Ingersoll. Lloyd died shortly after and Mary still lives in Ingersoll. Clayton graduated as a doctor and served in the second War.

George Houlden

William Walker

My father, William Walker, took up a homestead near Medford, Oklahoma in 1892. He cut sods to build the house which served for ten years. Then, with the help of his father he built a big house. In 1910 our family moved to Canada and took up a homestead near Vulcan. Later we moved to the Beisegel farm south of Cayley. There were eleven children in our family – five girls and six boys.

A story I remember is about the time we had only one hen laying. Company came and waited two hours for the hen to lay an egg so Mother could bake a cake! Mother often helped in the fields during the day and then would wash, iron and sew half the night. There were times when she put the children to bed, then took a lantern to the field to help Dad stook.

The other girls were Effie (Mrs. Roy Kitchen), Lottie (Mrs. Clifford Chaffee), Merle (Mrs. W. Gilchrist), Bessie (Mrs. Roy Stevens) and Oma (Mrs. Charles Ainsworth). The boys were George, who homesteaded near Vulcan, Earl, Clifford, Raymond, Louis, and Eugene. Mother died in 1946 and father in 1952.

Bessie Stevens

Peter Stevens

They moved to Cayley in 1911 from Bozeman, Montana – they had originally been from Missouri and had crossed the plains in a covered wagon in 1872, fighting off Indians along the way. There were four children – Grace, Minnie, Mae, and Roy. Minnie died at Cayley in 1917.

They bought the place (known as the Delehunte place now) and farmed and

milked cows there, also running a lot of cattle on a ranch west of Cayley. Pete and Roy had a threshing outfit and threshed all around the country – also did custom ploughing, etc.

Harry Boles came to Cayley with the Stevens and in 1916 married their daughter Mae – she died in 1940 in Salem.

Mrs. Stevens, Carrie Chaffee, Daughter Grace Stevens, and Mr. Stevens.

When the Stevens arrived in Cayley the first place they visited was at Clifford and Lottie Chaffees'. I was staying there with Lottie, my sister and Roy asked me out and we went from there to be married in 1915. We have two children – Leo and Bertha.

Dad Stevens sold out in 1918 and moved to Oregon. At that time they had over $100,000, but after moving from place to place and lots of bad buys, Dad lost every cent he had and died broke in 1954. Mother Stevens died in 1929.

The Homer Scobie Family

My parents, Homer and Agnes Scobie, had a beautiful new home on the Rideau River just sixteen miles east of Ottawa, but work on the farm was hard and my father had broken his health stoning the land and digging under-ditches, so they decided to leave Ontario and move west to Alberta. My mother was especially sad at leaving her lovely home, but she bravely turned her face west with her husband and children. Friends and relatives were sure we were going to a wilderness full of Indians.

It was early in the spring of 1911 when Father, Mother and six children boarded the old colonist car coupled to the rear of a freight train. We had two cars full of stock, machinery and family effects – horses, cattle, pigs, hens, seed grain, and our faithful old dog, Hector. The family organ was with the furniture, and many pleasant sing-songs were enjoyed by the family and the other passengers on the train. It must have been ten days or two weeks before we reached High River.

We were met at the station by the late Mr. Robert Findlay. Our first home was a rented quarter-section, now owned by Bill Skory. The house was two storys, but small, with a summer kitchen. The upstairs was not finished so we used curtains to partition off the bedrooms. It was very wet that first year, and I remember the oats grew six feet tall. Highview school, nearby, was closed as there were not enough children to keep it open.

In the spring of 1912 we moved to our own farm a short distance south and east of Cayley, where Theodore Scobie now lives. Family transportation was a team of horses and a democrat. If only one or two of us were going somewhere we used the one-horse buggy. Our closest neighbors were the Herb George family, the Pete Stevens' and Robert Houldens. We looked forward all week to going to town on Saturday evening where we would meet and visit with our neighbors. On Sundays we went to church. Father had been brought up a Methodist, but attended both Methodist and Presbyterian churches, and was in favor of union which even-

tually came. The Thanksgiving supper and the concert which followed were looked forward to for months. So were the Sunday School picnics. In winter we would drive for miles to go skating on a pond.

There were hard times in Alberta, but my father had the pioneer spirit, and he loved this fertile land with the mountains to the west. We were all glad to be part of the Cayley community, which was like one large friendly family.

My father purchased land four miles north of Cayley, across the corner from the Highview School, and built the big house which is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Swanston. After my father's death my brother Orville took over the farm.

Bella, Mrs. Sam Mills, resides in Fleming, Saskatchewan, Theodore farms the old place south of Cayley. Ruby, now deceased, was Mrs. Murray Caspell. Angus lives in Anaheim, California, and Orville in Calgary. Hervie rented the Fred Barker place for several years, and farmed west of town and at Mazeppa before moving to Vancouver. I, Ivy, am Mrs. Willard Barker and we live south of Cayley.

T.K. and Lila Scobie

Theodore came to Cayley with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Scobie, from Manotik, Ontario in 1911. In 1912 the family moved to a farm south east of Cayley. Theodore took over the farm when his parents bought land four miles north of Cayley. In 1920 he and Lila Simmons of Ottawa were married at Winnipeg. (Mrs. Scobie is a sister of Mrs. Fred Edey). Mr. and Mrs. Scobie still live on this farm.

They had three sons; Morley served in the Air Force and married Jean Clark at Mossbank, Sask. in 1945. They have two children, Brian and Lynn. Clark was in the army and married Winnifred Stephenson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Stephenson of High River. They farm at Fort St. John with their four children, Allister, Jack, Lee and Tess. They take their education by correspondence as sometimes they can't get out for three months. Wayne and his wife, Dawne Colway, live in Calgary. Their children are Mark, Kim and Sandy.

Leta Arnold

Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Scobie

H.A. (Angus) Scobie farmed just south of his father's at Highview. He and Frankie Keller were married in 1926. They built their brick home the next year – now the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Noble.

In 1933 Frankie and Angus with their two children Ronald and Darlene moved to Creston B.C. Darlene passed away in Creston. Two more daughters, Roberta and Sharon, were born to them. They returned to High River for a few years, later locating in Mission City, B.C. They now reside in Anaheim, California.

Orville Scobie Family

Orville Scobie was born at Manotik, Ontario and came west as a child with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Scobie, in 1911. He attended school at Cayley, Braemar and Highview. In 1929 he married Anne Street of Rocanville, Sask. and they carried on farming when his parents retired to High River.

Orville Scobie, Homer Scobie, Ivy Barker, Agnes Scobie.

Orville and Annie Scobie, Norma, Muriel and Beverly, 1939

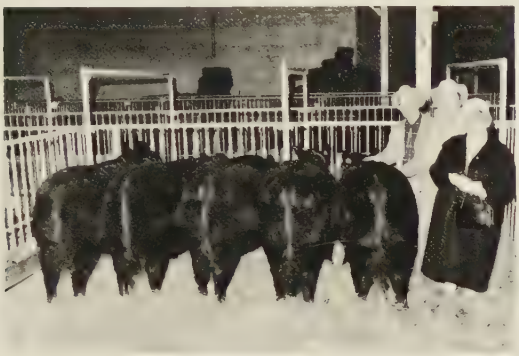
Men: Mr. Johnston, Mr. McIlroy, and Mr. E. Elves. Ladies: Mrs. Robblee, Mrs. Fairy Walker, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Jack Wickins, Mrs. Scragg, Mrs. Geo. Wickens or Mrs. McIlroy. In front: Mrs. E. Elves.

They have three daughters, Norma, Mrs. J.C. Aitkens, Rivers, Manitoba, Muriel, Mrs. M.B. Miller, Cloan, Sask. and Beverly, Mrs. Arnold Earl, Calgary.

In 1950 they sold their farm to Mrs. Scobie's brother, Jim Street, and are now living in Calgary.

Fred and Mary Edey

Fred Edey left his home in Aylmer East, Quebec, in 1913, he boarded a "harvest excursion train" in Ottawa and came to Cayley. He secured employment with the late Herb George on the place more commonly known now as the Atcheson farm by the people of Cayley. The next year he returned to Aylmer and married Mary Simmons, they then returned to Cayley (their honeymoon trip) and continued working for Mr. George and the late Jack Atcheson until branching out for themselves in 1919.



Mr. & Mrs. Fred Edey, Ed Noad (centre) with Fred's 1st Prize steers at Toronto Royal Fair, 1961.

Fred, always a lover and good judge of livestock, created somewhat of a record when in 1961, after having raised and fitted five angus steers, took them to the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto and came home with a red ribbon. Over seventy years of age and the first time to show in Canada's largest exhibition caused the Officials to claim that this hadn't been done before.

Fred and Mary have now semi-retired in Cayley but they have a quarter section and a few cattle and here you will find Fred, rain or shine, looking after his stock – his greatest pleasure in life.

In August, 1964 they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with their two sons and their wives and five grandchildren.

The two sons, Norman and Mervyn have followed in their Dad's footsteps and are actively engaged in livestock enterprises, owning the Stampede Ranch west of Longview and the major interest in the Foothills Livestock Pool Ltd. in High River.

Norman married Christina London. They have a daughter, Donna (Mrs. Ralph Leavens) of Calgary and a son Delbert. Also a granddaughter, Lana Leavens.

Mervyn married Bernice Christie. They have two sons, Don and Ross, a daughter Pamela and a granddaughter Shelley.

Norman Edey

Threshing on E.N. Sleeman farm.

Cattle Brands

1907-1914

-YH	Allen, W.H.	
BA	Allwood, B.L., Loch Sloy	
AX-	Axtell, Willard	r.r.
L	Barker, Willard, (horse)	
U6	Barnes, W.M.G.	r.h.
9U	Beaton, L.	r.h.
LH	Beisiegel, Minnie	r.h.
DB	Bidwell, G.M.	l.sh.
U	Bar U (Allen Baker)	
GN	Carlberg Bros.	r.h.
D	Cartwright & Thorp	
SG-	Charlton, Star	l.r.
GT	Christofferson, Thos.	r.h.
DH	Chumley & Zarley	r.r.
∢C	Czarboe, A.	r.h.
AR	Davis Bros. Pekisko	l.h.
KD	Delahunty, R.	
C-C	Drumheller, Jack	l.r.
KM	Gardner, Maggie	r.sh.
XY	Gillespie, Roy	l.h.
GC	Gribble, Chas.	r.r.
HH	Houghton, Clara	l.h.
OH	Howard, Chas.	l.sh.
YV	Johnson, H.D.	l.r.
L9	Keller, Gertrude	l.r.
BL	Longacre Bros.	l.r.
⊥⊔	Mace, S.M. Pekisko	l.h.
♡	McConkey, James H.	r.h.
OX	McDonagh, A.B.	l.h.
∃K	McKethen, Elmer	l.sh.
K⊥	McKinnon, James	l.r.
H	McMillan, R.L.	
ZX	McPherson, Robert	r.h.
ZN	Micks Bros.	l.sh.
E-V	Miller, B.C.	l.r.
GM	Moncrieff, G.H.	r.h.
-∢⊔	Muirhead, Jas. Pekisko	l.r.
YR	Myers, R.H.	l.r.
WK	Phillips, Wm.	l.sh.
EP	Plaston, G.A.	r.h.
VV	Reynolds, J. Pekisko	r.sh.
EX	Schneller, D.	r.sh.
SN	Sims, A. Loch Sloy	l.r.
65	Sloane, G.D.	r.r.
EL	Sones, Edd L.	r.h.
BG	Stevens, Alonzo	l.h.
TT	Tugwell, Thos. C.	r.sh.
NU	Walker, Archie	r.r.
YN	Walker, W.T.	l.r.
AU	Wells, Arthur	l.r.
LR	Wickson, Lester	l.r.
YP—	Young, Mrs. A.P.	l.r.

Later Cattle Brands

MA	Alexander, C.	r.h.
7S	Atcheson, Jack	
AE	Arnold, A.E.	l.r.
L9	Brockway, R.H.	l.r.
AA	Cameron, Gordon	l.r.
CCC	Cayley Colony	l.sh.
C4	Chaffee, Ralph	r.r.
C-J	Christie, J.A.	l.r.
UO	Coote, D.	r.r.
CU	Couey, E.	r.r.
DP	DePaoli, D.	r.h.
DD	Dunn, Dennis	
EY	Eaglesham, H.	r.h.
EE	Edey, Fred	
5S	Edey Bros.	r.r.
②	Grant, Inez	
WH	Hanson, W.	l.h.
HN	Henderson, Roy	r.sh.
WI	Hicklin, Will	
K	Hitchner, D.K.	l.sh.
3R-	Houlden Bros.	l.r.
D7	Howe, C.S.	r.r.
AJ	Jenkins, Art	r.s.
YY	Keller, Everett	l.r.
KK	Ketcham, Lon	r.h.
D6	Kitchen, D.	l.h.
PK	Le Patourel, Arthur	r.h.
-PC	McLean, Rex	r.r.
ZE	McLaren, Nat	
MC	McMillan Colony	l.h.
39	McNamee, Ivor	
R	M. D. of Foothills #31	r.r.
DU-	Moran, Felix	r.r.
-OM	Murdoch, Cal	r.r.
S3	Nelson, Elof	l.h.
JN	Nesbit, J.A.	r.r.
Z4	Palmer, H.A.	l.h.
DP	Pence, Don	l.h.
KB	Phillips, Chas.	r.h.
XO	Rasmusen, Albert	l.r.
4R	Reems, C.	
NO	Robinson, J.	r.h.
RC-	Roy, U.F.	l.r.
X3	Shier, H. & Craig, C.	l.r.
S2	Stephenson, Ed.	r.r.
H	Sutherland, Jack	r.sh.
NS	Stephenson, Norman	l.r.
S6	Sweet, W.G.	l.r.
4U	Walker, Peter	
9J	Walker, Harold	l.r.
TF	Wickens, Wm.	r.h.
-9J	Beaton, L.J.	l.r.

Brands by B. Houlden

Micks

The Micks family lived where Cecil Moncrieff lives now. There was Mrs. Micks and her two sons, Clarence and Dave, her sister Mrs. Williams and her three sons, Walter, Clarence and Bill.

Dave enlisted and was killed overseas in the First World War.

Clarence purchased the place across the road from Theodore Carlberg but died in 1922. He is buried in Cayley. The family relinquished the farm and moved to Washington. In 1935 the ashes of the mother, Mary Rosanna Micks, were sent to Cayley to be placed beside the grave of her son.

C.B. Cast

C.B. Cast was a brother-in-law of Charlie Phillips. He came to the district in 1915 and purchased the NE 14–17–28–W4 which he farmed for one year then returned to the States. The land is now owned by Albert Arnold. The quarter was homesteaded by L. Couey.

Left to right:
Mrs. Widdup, Miss Ross, Ethel Caspell, Miss Stirling.

Memory Village

by Fred Toothaker

I'd like to return to the village I knew,
Where the folks were so friendly and strangers were few;
And, too, I would like to be seeing again
All those chums of my childhood who played with me then.
I'd like to walk down by that old hitching rack,
A convenience of days that will never come back;
The drugstore where youth of the village then flocked,
Will forever a picture in memory be locked.

I'd like to go back to that village once more
To survey all the landmarks, and changes explore;
The court where farmers pitched horseshoes for fun
Till the womenfolks' shopping and gossip were done;
The tree-shaded lawns on each gas-lighted street,
And each person you see is a friend you can greet,
Were only a part of the life that I spent
In that village where living was filled with content.

Village of Cayley

Cayley about 1912.

Main Street about 1907. Most of these buildings were burned in 1912.

Cayley had its beginning with the building of the stockyards in 1892. Eleven years later (1903) the townsite was surveyed by the firm of Osler Hammond and Nanton. Wickens store and Post Office were built in 1903, also Hotel Cayley, Ingram Brothers Lumber Yard and meat market and quite a number of other businesses. Large herds of stock were still coming into the Yards, homesteaders were rolling in to the district and the small settlement grew so rapidly that on August 17, 1904 it was incorporated as a village. George Wickens was Reeve, Sam Hellings and George Smith Councillors.

Water has been a problem from the start. Drinking water was brought in on the train engine at first until an outbreak of typhoid fever was traced to this source. Water was then hauled from a spring at Bert Widdup's. Frank Walker drilled a good well and Webb Longacre hauled water to Cayley in barrels on a dray for several years. The Town then drilled wells to supply water for the village. Shortage of water made fire protection difficult and many of Cayley's best buildings went up in smoke.

Cayley in the early days was a busy little place. On Saturday nights it was hard to find hitching-rail space for all the teams and saddle horses. The Trading area then was much larger than at present. Before the branch rail-line from Aldersyde to Lethbridge went in, homesteaders from what is now Lomond and Vulcan

Robert S. Knox, first Manager of Bank of Hamilton in Cayley. Charlie Latham house in the background. (Now Curran's). Courtesy E. Latham.

Early view of Cayley taken from the east. Shows converging trails. Courtesy Mrs. A. Arnold.

P.C. Loree's hunting trip. Courtesy Don Coote.

Mr. & Mrs. Geo. Coote, Mr. & Mrs. A. White and Mr. & Mrs. P.C. Loree starting on a camping trip. Courtesy Don Coote.

Lorne Tiffin, Lottie and Clifford Chaffee, daughter Leta.

George Wickens with baby (Bessie Beaton), Mrs. Fitger, Mrs. Beaton, Mr. Beaton with Beatrice and Mrs. Wickens. Others unknown. 1907

Left to right: Dr. A.O. Brown in front of his Drug Store, Girls unknown, F.F. McDonald in front of his store, last store was Elves Hardware Store.

districts depended on Cayley for supplies, and hauled grain with teams and grain tanks the long miles to the elevators at Cayley.

The village reached a peak about 1920. After that almost everyone had cars and it was easy to shop in High River or Nanton. The Depression years dealt a heavy blow, especially the closing of the bank.

Though business dwindled, civic pride remained. There are sidewalks and gravelled streets, homes are neat and trees flourish throughout the village. In 1956 a sewage system was installed although the water supply still remains a problem. Cayley is now chiefly a grain shipping point, and a school, church and social centre.

The population in 1967 is approximately 150. There are 164 families in the mailing district (including 49 families at the two Hutterite Colonies).

Mr. and Mrs. George Wickens

Mr. and Mrs George Wickens and their small daughter Jean came to Cayley from Wallaceburg, Ontario in 1903 to become the first residents of Cayley and to operate the first Post Office and store.

Up to this time the homesteaders had to go to High River or Nanton for mail and supplies - a fairly long distance by foot or horseback or wagon - so a petition had been circulated requesting Ottawa to establish a Post Office at Cayley. Mrs Wickens' brother, Lorne Tiffin, was already homesteading in the district and through him the Wickens learned of the need of the Post Office and came west shortly after.

They opened their business first in a railway box car by the side of the track while a combination store, Post Office and residence was being built. More and more homesteaders were coming in and business was good from the start. Everything available was stocked from horse-collars to confectionery, and their home and store became the social and church centre of the community. People often stayed overnight and when the bedding supply ran out Mrs Wickens would use horse-blankets from the store-stock to make beds on the floor.

A meat-market next to the store was added to the business and was managed first by Mrs Wickens' step-father W.S. Derry and later by L. Beaton. A land office was opened in the store and George, as agent for Hammond Osler and Nanton sold village lots and farm land. He also homesteaded a quarter south of town.

The Indians used to pitch their teepees at the north end of the village. When Mr. and Mrs Wickens returned from a day out of town, the new man left in charge of the store proudly reported a fine day's business - including the sale of the entire stock of lemon flavoring to the Indians! By that time a big pow-wow was already going on at the edge of the village - and lasted well into the night.

George was active in all musical undertakings and was organizer and leader of Cayley's Community Band. He served on the village Council and School Board. He was Post Master for ten years, and was followed by his brother-in-law Fred Scragg.

Mrs Wickens was always ready to go to the help of anyone in time of need. Cliff Chaffee referred to her as the "Mother of Cayley".

In 1913 the store and post office, meat market and the big pool hall and barber-

shop all burned to the ground. George then built a one-story brick block on the same location which housed several businesses, and where they operated a hardware for many years. The north half of the block was torn down some years ago. Moran's General Store is located in the remaining half of the block.

Mr. and Mrs Wickens retired to Calgary where Mr. Wickens passed away in 1951. Mrs Wickens later became Mrs G. McElroy. She too is now deceased.

Jean (Mrs. Howard) resides in Cooksville, Ontario. Charleton was killed while working on an oil rig. Olive (Mrs. McCreary resides in Calgary.

Hotel Cayley

Hotel Cayley was an important establishment in its day, providing accommodation for cattle-buyers and branch inspectors, ranchers, land-seekers, travelling salesmen and others stopping over in those days of slower travel. The hotel was built in 1903 by Ingraham Brothers. It was a two-story building 30 by 68 feet with the usual long verandah.

Among those frequently staying at the hotel were Pat Burns, Roper Hull and George Lane.

Cayley Hotel

The first proprietors were an English couple, Mr. and Mrs. A.G. Garred. In September of 1904 the Garreds were hosts to the whole community at a dinner and dance. Townsfolk, homesteaders, ranchers and cowboys sat down together at a big dinner at which George Wickens asked the blessing. Mrs. Garred wore a long evening gown which was in great contrast to the western apparel, riding boots and spurs worn by some of the guests. Some of the cowboys tried to promote a dance between George McManaman (who had celebrated a bit too well) and Mrs. Garred. They thought the entanglement of long gown and spurs might be most interesting, but George passed out before the dance could be arranged.

During shipping season the bar did a rip-roaring business. Chumley, who was the village constable, arrested those who became over-exuberant and locked them up to cool off overnight. Next morning they would appear before Magistrate Elves who would fine them $2.00 and costs for being drunk and disorderly. In later years the hotel lost its liquor license and Mr. Elves work as magistrate dwindled to zero.

The hotel changed hands frequently. After the Garreds it passed to Morrison and Dank in 1905, to H.O. Warham in 1906, Mr. and Mrs. Fitger 1907, "Slick" Reid 1908, E.W. McKenna 1910, Smith Farrell 1915-17. Mr. Bordon was another owner. The last proprietors were Low On and Chew Kang about 1925. Mr. and Mrs. Low On's baby died while they were in Cayley and was buried in the Cayley Cemetery. The baby's crib and play toys were left at the grave. The Low Ons later operated a cafe at Longview.

The hotel was closed in the late 20's, and in 1933 was dismantled. The

lumber was used to build Meadowbank Community Hall. The empty lot where the hotel had stood was purchased later by Cecil Kocher who moved the house from the Scragg farm onto it. This house is now owned by Mrs. A. Holstein.

Shipping Fever!

When Ralph Chaffee was once asked about the most exciting incident he remembered he told of one day about 1905 or 1906 when pandemonium reigned.

It was round-up time and half a dozen wagons were camped on the range around the stockyards. The hotel bar had been doing a big business. Some of the cowboys were playing poker for drinks - others were just drinking. Then a whiskey ornery member of one outfit made a loud and insulting remark about another outfit. He was promptly slugged. Then the slugger was slugged by another cowboy from the first bunch and the fight was on.

Cowboys were punched, knocked down, jumped on. They all carried guns, usually in the saddle-pocket, for shooting coyotes or wolves. Only one gun was drawn and it was used to knock a rider of the opposing outfit from his horse.

Hotel Cayley had some extra guests for a day or two while they recuperated from the wounds of battle.

Sam Hellings

Sam Hellings came to Cayley in 1903 and operated the lumber yard and grain warehouse and meat market built by Ingraham Brothers in the early days of the village. His wife, Mattie, who was Bert Widdup's sister, was active in the Methodist church. The Hellings later moved to Nanton, and in 1910 went to Calgary to go into the building contracting and real-estate business. "Sam will not pass up a good deal of any kind - especially in real-estate.", was a Nanton News comment.

Mrs. Ann E. Kinnie of Nanaimo and Tom Hellings of Flin Flon, are daughter and son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hellings.

Charlie Wilkie

The Wilkies lived in the town about where Mr. & Mrs. Beaton Sr. have their home now. They had four girls and one boy. Mr. Wilkie sold International Harvester machinery and hired his land farmed East of Cayley.

The Brewster Boys

Ed and Bill Brewster were twins although in appearance they were not at all similar. Bill was heavy-set and clean-shaven, while Ed was slightly built and wore a moustache. They were born in Ireland in 1867 and came as young boys with their parents to Canada. Ed came to Cayley in 1900, filing on one of the first homesteads in the area. Bill came and bought land in the district in 1910. Both Ed and Bill lived to a ripe old age, but as long as they lived they were known as the "Brewster Boys".

Ed's homestead was a quarter two miles straight east of town, now owned by Ray Peterson. He did much of the early carpentering in the village and district. Bill's farm which he purchased from Phillip Beisegel, was a few miles south of town and is now owned by Bill Wickens. He also bought the Jim McConkey farm a few years later. It is now owned by Lloyd Caspell.

Ed made his home with the George Wickens family for many years. Bill lived

at the Cayley Hotel. After the hotel was dismantled the brothers batched together in a house on the east side of the village.

They lived well, mainly on beef-steak, strong tea, stronger cigars, and whisky. Their Irish wit and unfailing hospitality made their bachelor home the rendevous for men throughout the district - especially for those seeking sanctuary from feminine oppression, real or imaginary. The cards were always handy for a game of pitch or poker and the kettle usually simmered on the stove ready for a hot rum. Those in financial difficulty sought the help of Bill, who was the more affluent of the two. How he remained so was a mystery, for as one fellow put it, Bill would only lend money to those he was sure would never pay it back.

When the "Boys" were alone passers-by would often notice one or the other of them sitting at the kitchen table by the window, hat pushed back on his head, playing solitaire. Their prowess at the poker table, the bar, or the pool table was well known, but they were always gentlemen and maintained a quiet dignity. They could quote bits of poetry or discuss on a wide range of topics from politics to the Scriptures.

Frequent "parties" were held by their friends at the all-male haven, with the chief occasions being the Boys' birthdays and the "17th of Ireland". An oyster feed, or a roast turkey might be the main supper course, and on at least two occasions - one of these was the twins 80th birthday - their friends supplied a whole roast pig - complete with unblinking glass marble eyes!

At one gathering Bill had the temerity to tell Ed that he hadn't made the right play in the last hand. Ed was properly incensed and in a matter of minutes the two brothers were up and at one another with their fists. Two visitors caught and held them until they had cooled off a bit. They sat down at their places again and Ed said "Sorry Bill". "Sorry Ed" said Bill, and the incident was over.

One memorable occasion was "Bill's last party". Bill had been in failing health for some time and had finally been told by his Doctor that his days were numbered. When word got 'round to his friends, they made immediate plans for Bill's last party. It was a big success. While they were playing poker, one of the friends became emotionally upset and a tear or two slipped down his cheeks. Bill interrupted the deal to comfort him. He patted his friend understandingly on the shoulder, 'Sal right Albert, 'Sal right" he soothed..."Just livin on borrowed time anyway". He returned to practical matters and demanded, "How many cards you need"?

Later in the evening Ed too was emotionally overcome and with brotherly affection urged "Drink up Bill, drink up, it's your last party".

"Yes", said Bill as he drank up, "It's my last party".

But Bill didn't die. He regained his health and eventually outlived Ed by several years.

Bill's last Christmas was spent with his nephews at Fort Macleod - but at home he left the door unlocked as usual, the tea-kettle simmering on the stove, and a bottle of rum and glasses on the table for any friends who might call. The first friends to drop by and partake of the Christmas Cheer signed their names on a piece of paper and left the paper and pencil on the table for any others who might call.

In December, 1955 Bill passed quietly away in his 89th year. Ed had died in the spring of 1951 at the age of 84. Both brothers are buried in the cemetery at Fort Macleod.

Cayley Drugstore

Mr. Art Chisholm, Registered Druggist, owner of the Nanton Drug and Stationery Store opened a branch Drug and Stationery Store in Cayley in early 1906. It was operated by Fred Chisholm a brother of the owner and Orie Fetherston a Registered Druggist apprentice, commuted from Nanton to Cayley by horseback so as to serve part time in each store.

The Cayley Drugstore was bought by the local M.D., Doctor Brown, in late 1907, from Mr. Art Chisholm. Orie Fetherston then returned full time to the Nanton drugstore.

Orrie remembers the time a homesick cowboy wandered into the drugstore and and offered a dollar if they would play a certain record, "Gee But This is a Lonesome Town", all day long. So they cranked up the phonograph and put the record on. By night it was barely wheezing – but a dollar was quite a bit of money in those days!

Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Wickens – Cayley.

Joseph Wickens Armstrong

Having learned of the serious illness of my uncle George Wickens, I left my home in the east in 1904 to go to Cayley to help with the store and Post Office.

The store was a small, low flat-roofed building. There was a large supply of dust peanut coal, which had been brought in from a gully about ten miles west of Cayley. It was hauled in in a large grain wagon, mixed with water in a mortar and

shovelled into a small pot-bellied stove, which had already been lighted. It would immediately coke and we would have intense heat for hours. This was a new experience for me and quite a novelty.

The store was well stocked, there was plenty of business and much work to be done. Several died with the epidemic of typhoid fever, with which Uncle George was afflicted, but he and a number of others came through the ordeal alright.

My uncle Jack Wickens and my aunt Hattie, Mrs. Scragg, came out from Ontario in the summer for a visit. Jack and I had played in the Tupperville Band in Ontario, so we immediately started to organize a band. We got Mrs. Frank Walker to play the piano and sing. Jack played the cornet and I played the trombone. We played a lot, mostly at dances and had a lot of fun.

During this time I met Jack Leonard, a musician, who worked in a wholesale grocery in Calgary. He played in the 15th Light Horse Band under the direction of Captain Bagley. One night I went to the Fair Grounds in Calgary to hear the band, and was asked to substitute for the bass player, who had failed to show up. Through this experience I was offered the opportunity of going to the Dublin Exposition in July 1907. We also played a three-week engagement in White City, Manchester, England. The band was made up of players from Calgary, although there were a few from the States and several from Vancouver and Victoria.

In 1908 I left Cayley and went to Vancouver where I remained for several years.

I married, became an American citizen and have three daughters and nine grandchildren.

I now live in Oroville, California. I am in the Real Estate business, as a Broker and conduct my office under the name of J.W. Armstrong. I own property in British Columbia and spend most of the summer improving and taking care of it.

I have been back to Cayley twice since I left, once in 1912, and once in 1943 and I always enjoy meeting old friends.

The Cayley Band was organized after I left.

James Anderson

Jimmy Anderson was the Cayley Baker for several years. He and his wife built the bake shop which is now Norman Jackson's house. They had four children, Florence, Ada, Percy and Clifford. Materials were not of uniform quality so bread baking was a difficult task. They left in 1911 and Mr. Anderson became a baker on a ship.

Ashfords

Mr. and Mrs. Ashford farmed the Drake place - now W.L. Sloane's farm. They had two sons.

Doctors

Dr. Rhinhardt, Dr. De Long and Dr. A.O. Brown all practised at Cayley. Dr. Brown, who came in 1908, remained the longest, building the home presently occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Jack MacLean. Here their daughter Muriel was born. Dr. Brown also built a drug store which later became Riley Municipal Office. The Doctor and his family retired to the Coast, where he died at White Rock, B.C.

Families east of Cayley relied on Dr. Shamberger who taught at Sharon School, was the Dunkard Church minister, practised medicine and proved up on a homestead all simultaneously.

Cayley

by Mrs. Fairy Walker

1. We sing of a town on the C.P. line
   Out in the west, that was made to shine,
   But its diet must have lacked cod liver oil
   For it never grew as we hoped at all.

Chorus:
   But, yes, yes, yes, for you and me,
   Cayley's the place where we like to be,
   Yes, yes, yes, for you and me,
   Cayley's the place where we like to be.

2. It got its name from Judge Cayley,
   And began to grow in nineteen and three.
   It started right out on the bald prairie,
   Without river or lake, or even a tree.

3. It began at the end of the alphabet
   The Wickens' and Walker's are stuck there yet.
   But along came the Beaton's and Elves' and Kwong,
   We knew it would grow if they stayed there long.

4. We don't want to tire you out,
   But you surely know what our song's about
   So join in the chorus, and sing with glee
   Cayley's the place where we all like to be.

"Tune of Little Brown Jug"

Ernest Bauer

He was usually known as "Daddy" or "Pappy" Bauer and is remembered especially by those who were children two generations ago and bought candies at his store.

Ernest Bauer came from Cleghorn, Iowa in 1905 and homesteaded the quarter immediately south of Kellers'. Dan Keller had filed on the quarter for his brother, and when the brother didn't take possession the land was re-opened for filing. Mr. Bauer was a weaver by trade and had managed a big cloth factory in Germany. When he opened his confectionary, which he called "My Store", he also wove carpets and rugs as a side-line. And kept chickens too.

He bought his supplies in High River and as he didn't own a horse and buggy, he trundled a wheel-barrow up to High River and back, along nine or ten miles of rutted prairie trail. He would take eggs up and bring back groceries, confectionary-supplies, and Bull Durham tobacco for the cowboys.

Mrs. Albert H. Ducommun was his only daughter, and he often walked the five miles out to his daughter's home with candy in his pockets for his grandchildren.

He was always handy with the hammer and nails and helped with some of the building in the village.

Picking rock was a heavy chore in those days. The homesteaders rolled the big rocks on to the stoneboat and dumped them on the stone-pile at the edge of the field. Pappy Bauer was again hampered by having no horse to haul a stoneboat but undaunted, he would dig a big hole by the rock and roll the rock into the hole and bury it. As well as his homestead quarter, he owned land across from the present cemetery. Neighbouring farmers were hired to do the field work.

Mr. Bauer sold his land and returned to Iowa. The west called again and he came back and purchased a farm near the old polo grounds, a few miles northwest of High River where he spent the remainder of his life. He is buried in the High River cemetery.

George W. Smith Family

It was the lure of the west, hope of a homestead and a home of our own that brought my parents George W. Smith and his wife Lottie Grace Burton and we four children, Flossie, Ethel, Beatrice and Donald from Kingsville, Ontario to Cayley in 1906.

Cayley was the only place of course as Dad's sister and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Wills Pedwrick, his brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Smith, were already there. Also our old friends Mr. and Mrs. Joe Meyers, who had left Essex, Ontario a few years before for Oklahoma had moved from there up to Cayley. About 35 or 40 of them, including Mr. and Mrs. Green and family, Mr. and Mrs. Knott and family and Jack Husk had chartered a railway car to bring them to Cayley from Oklahoma.

With no houses to be had they made-do with tents. The Pedwricks and J.H. Smiths built floors and three foot walls and put tents on them out on the Lon Stevens farm east of Cayley. That was where our family came to so they sort of moved over and made room for the six of us.

In May we four young ones came down with measles and Mother with quinsey. It rained for two weeks straight that year - and we in a tent!

Dad was a carpenter and contracted and built the McDonald block. He also built the house which Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Elves now own. It was our first home in Alberta.

We had several cows which we tethered or herded where Beaton's farm is now. We sold milk to many town homes at five cents a quart and were all right - until it became law that all cattle must be dipped. Dad took our three cows to be dipped at the dip on the Lorne Tiffin place. It was our best cow which was driven into the vat first. The solution was away too hot and she was badly burned. Of course there wasn't any thought of recompense - we just did what we could for the poor cow - but she was ruined, and so was our milk money.

We walked one and one half miles to the first school south of Cayley and sometimes the freight train would stop and take us into the caboose. As it was shortest that way, we always walked along the track. Miss Marie Caspell was our teacher.

The Hill family lived in the Section House. George Hill was the Section Boss.

Many wonderful times we had there. George, too, sometimes gave us a lift to school on the hand car.

It was a cold winter in 1906 and 07. Our house was only one layer of shiplap and one layer of building paper. We nearly froze.

Dad built the Eaglesham house on the farm, and also helped with the Keller house, which was log.

We moved to Kew in the fall of 1907. It wasn't surveyed out there yet so we squatted on a place, but there wasn't any school so Dad threw it up in the spring of 1908 and we came back to Cayley and lived in the restaurant (later Quong Lung's) and ran it that winter.

Flossie, Ethel and I (Beatrice) were all rung in on the job when we weren't in school. Many will remember the old town pump. It was a hard job to persuade it to give forth with any water - and that which it did give was hard as nails. It seemed to me that Donald and I pumped for hours to coax a pail of water - and it took many big pails of water that winter. Restaurant business is hard work without the use of running water or electricity or gas.

I remember the one day which was tops - moneywise. Our little policeman went into the back door of the one and only hotel, which was a door or two down the street from us, and drove everyone out of the front door - and locked it. I don't remember what the disdemeanor was (there was plenty went on there) but it looked so funny to see all those men, some of them almost twice as big as the policeman, going out meek as mice. As ours was the only other eating-place in Cayley we were called upon to feed all the hotel customers as well as our own regulars. And we had a big threshing crew that day too. We sure were busy!

Jack Husk was a bachelor who started Cayley's first hamburger stand. He was from the deep south and was deathly afraid of Canadian law. He was sure he would be hung for the least infraction of the rules.

We left Cayley in 1909 to go on a homestead in Reid Hill district. This was before there was a Vulcan or a railroad out there so Cayley was still our town, 30 odd miles away. We had an Indian pony and buggy which we drove to town maybe twice a year. It took three days - one to go, one to shop and visit - and one to drive home again.

Ethel, Mrs. B. Meyers, is now a widow and lives in Edmonton. Flossie, who never married is also in Edmonton. I, Beatrice, am a widow Mrs. L.G. Clifford, and live in High River. My brother Donald Smith is at Nanton.

Bea Clifford

William Hicklin

Bill was born March 30, 1888, one of eleven children of Mr. and Mrs. John Hicklin of England. He started to work on his thirteenth birthday with a cattle dealer in England.

In 1907 he came to Canada with Mrs. Scragg Sr., Fred Scragg and Edith Scragg, (Mrs. W. Farrell). In 1908 he settled on a homestead at Badger's Lake, ten miles east of Lomond. For eight years he had no crop and his ninth was a third hailed out. He spent all his winters at Cayley, hauling hay at twenty five cents a day, helping Rev. Bushfield dig the cellar for the Cayley Parsonage, also for the first Cayley school in town. He also worked in Mr. Beatons butcher shop. Bill, Fred

Left to right: Bill Hicklin, Mrs. J. Hicklin, Mr. J. Hicklin, Jack Hicklin.

and Ted Scragg lived in the parsonage together, which was a room built on to the Church.

Rev. Peck sent Bill and Fred Scragg as a team to open up Methodist church services at four schools thirty five miles east of Claresholm. Bowville and Black Spring Ridge were two of them. Bill was to lead the singing. At the first service there was just one lady and her two young daughters, and from that small beginning they had packed schools at each service. They lived in the Fred House home and did the chores so the House Family could move in to Claresholm in the winter.

An undenominational Sunday School was started in Cayley by Bill and Ted Scragg. Bill had a great bass voice and also sang alto when necessary. He sang in the Presbyterian choir in the morning and the Methodist choir at night and later in the United choir for many years until his hearing failed him.

In 1918 he decided to sell the homestead and bought the Ed. Shackleton farm south of Cayley and the same year he and Miss Hattie Freeman were married. They had seven children, Alex, now deceased, Evelyn, Kenneth, Everett, Joe, Doreen and Stanley. Alex and Ken served overseas in World War Two. Mrs. Hicklin passed away several years ago.

Bill sold his farm to Lou Lendrum in 1950 and moved to a ranch at Turner Valley before moving to Calgary. He married again in 1958.

John and Eliza Hicklin

Mrs. Hicklin was Eliza Becherton before marrying John Hicklin of Hilton, Derbyshire, England. They had eleven children, one of the daughters, Mary Jane, was the first one of the family to come West. Mr. and Mrs. Hicklin came late in 1908 with sons Frank, Jack and Charlie, eighteen months after Bill, another son came out. They homesteaded at Badger Lake. Mr. S.E. Elves remembers Mr. Hicklin walking in the 70 miles from the homestead to Cayley for supplies, and he was not a young man at that time.

Mrs. Hicklin was a midwife. Her great devotion was to her Lord. She learned to play the organ after she was fifty years old, and it was a great comfort to her when her eyesight failed in her old age.

They retired in the village of Cayley where Mrs. Hicklin died at the age of 93 and Mr. Hicklin was 94 when he passed away.

There are only two surviving children, Alice at Medicine Hat and Bill in Calgary.

Billy Schnelle

I came from Wisconsin in the spring of 1907 and worked the first part of the summer at Lineham Lumber Mill in High River. When the crew, cook and foreman went to Okotoks to run the mill there, I went back to Wisconsin and returned the next spring. That year I put in sixty acres of oats on the Dave Greave homestead.

I did carpenter work for a time then worked for the CC Ranch for about five years until it was sold to the Hutterites. Then I worked in Bob McPherson's garage until he rented it to Barr, Shead and Witlock. Later I bought out Shead and Witlock's interest and Barr and I worked together. After we sold to McKay and Watson I went back to carpenter work.

Then I rented two sections from R.L. MacMillan and farmed it until the land was sold to the MacMillan Hutterites. I went to work for MacLeay Ranches, at the Bar S, in 1936. Stuart Riddle was the foreman.

My son Walter owns Donell Motors at Bentley, Marguerite teaches at Medicine Hat, Wilson was killed in a tractor accident, Gilbert is in a hardware store in Mirrill, Wisconsin, and Betty and her husband have a dairy farm at Marshfield, Wisconsin. I make my home at Rockyview Lodge in Crossfield.

W. Schnelle

Cayley School

Cayley School District No. 1864 was organized in 1908 and a school built on the present school grounds. The first teacher was Miss Marie Caspell who taught all grades from One to Eight. Later a partition was installed to make two classrooms and the grades divided.

Cayley School • 1925

In 1920 a two story three-roomed brick school was built and the old building was moved to become the present Odd Fellow's Hall. High School classes to Grade Eleven were held in the upstairs room. Not too many students went on to Grade Twelve at that time, but if they did it was necessary to go to High River or Calgary.

The attendance dwindled during the depression years until by 1940 there were no longer the required number of pupils to justify grants for a three-roomed school. Many people, not fully realizing the situation were much opposed to having Cayley join the Foothills School Division. However there was no alternative, and in 1941 the School Board, comprised of Norman Stephenson, Murray Caspell and George Houlden, negotiated the amalgamation within the Foothills Division. Hugh Johnson was elected representative on the Divisional Board, a post he held until 1951. Don Coote has represented the area since then.

The amalgamation proved very successful. Pupils from the surrounding rural schools were transported by van into Cayley. At first only the children of public school grades were transported and high school students had to find their own way. Students from the original Cayley School District also had to provide their own transportation. Later van service was extended to all. The upper floor was divided into two class-rooms and Grade Twelve was taught. Frankburg School was moved into Cayley. One half was used as a primary class-room and the other half served as auditorium. Braeside School was moved in to become the Home Economics room. Braemar was also moved in and was used as the Manual Arts "Shop".

The favorite spot for school picnics was the sandstone formations in Squaw Coulee.

Cayley School - 1928

Back—Mr. K. Young, John Houlden, Carl Rasmusen, Campbell Atcheson, Don Beaton, Dorothy Jackson, Katherine Gribble. Middle—Gertrude Keller, Alta. Beaton, Christine Rasmusen, Mildred Elves, Alice Shier, Margaret Elves, Iris Houghton, Lola Chaffee, Daphne Gardner. Front—Stanley Walker, Walter Schnelle.

Cayley School - 1931

Cayley High School, about 1937. Harvey Chaffee, Layton Arnold, Joe Gilchrist, Bob McPherson, Lloyd Caspell, Morley Scobie, Delbert Thompson, Allan Holmes, Delma Thompson, Marguerite Schnellie, Rita Gilchrist, Helen Brinton, Cleo Williams, A.P. Grant.

CAYLEY HIGH SCHOOL 1947

Standing: Lloyd Cumming, Helen Kachela, Fern Peterson, Norma Stephenson, Elgin Tetachuk, Dean Shields, Principal S. A. Lindstedt, Ralph Nelson, Bruce McNamee, Irwin Brockway, Shirley Reagh, Donna Denison, Mrs. J. Gilchrist.

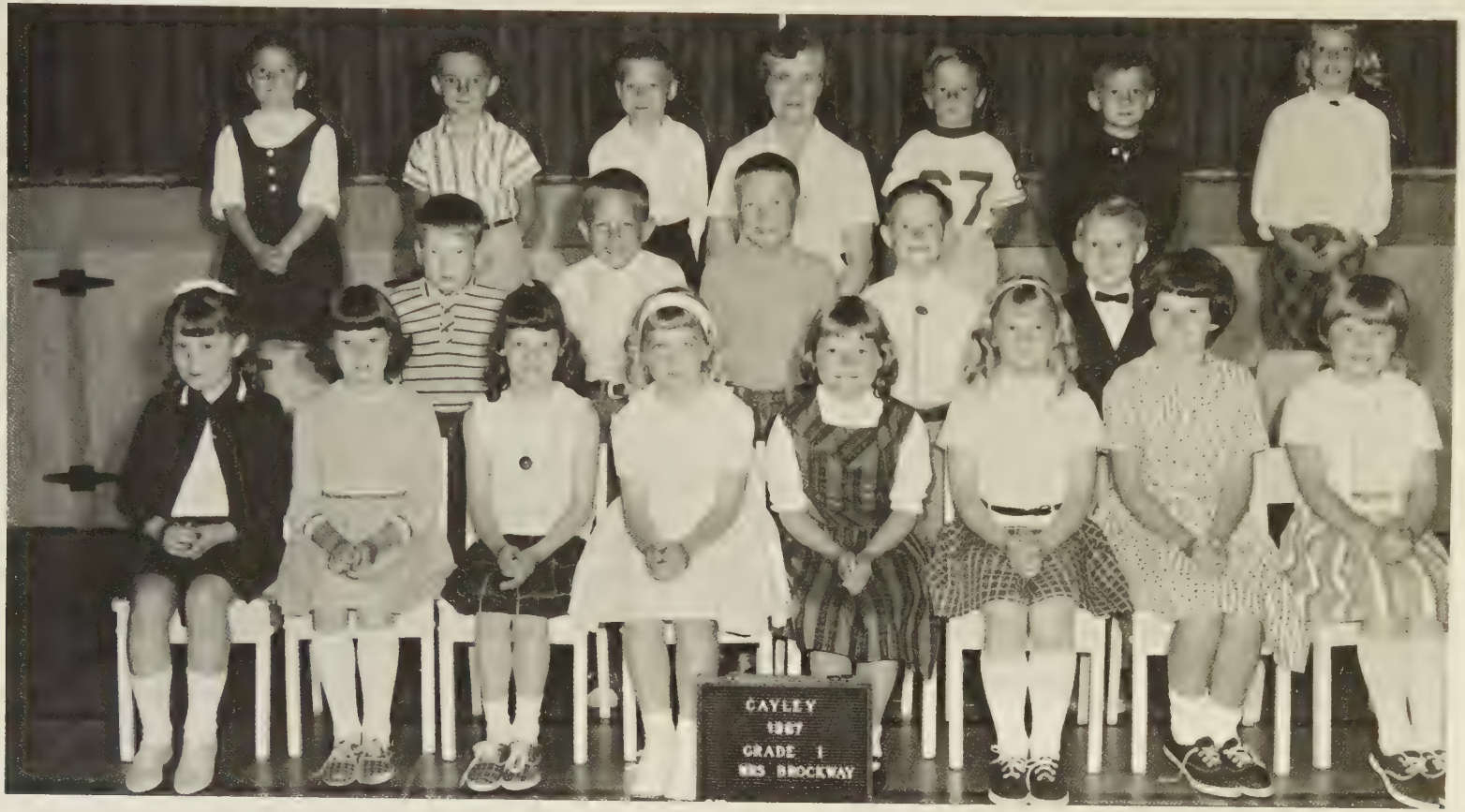
Far Row: Maribel Widdup, June Houlden, Ronnie Stephenson, Myra Ibbitson.

3rd Row: Norma Scobie, Opal Keller, Margaret Feyrer, Georgina Dell, Anne Feyrer.

2nd Row: Evelyn Tannas, Nita Bertoia, Margaret Hurst, Irene Bonney.

1st Row: Pam Peterson, Jean McPherson.

1951. Standing: Georgina Dobie, Sharon Neeland, Beverly Keller, Patricia Roy, Ida Nesbitt, Margaret Brockway, Coleen Roy, Peter Rasmusen, David Sloane, John Bruins, Curtis Gow, Miss Phillis McLean, Martin Tetachuk, Calvin Beaton, Duane Duncan. Far row: Billy Feyrer, Gerald Lendrum, Amy Beaton, Myra Alexander, Middle row: Dorothy Husby, Clayton Moncrieff, Ray Duncan, Nellie Holstein, Eileen Kozma, Wilma Walker. Near row: Eileen Keller, Claude Moncrieff, Carol Hanson, Verone McCrea, Phillis Littau.



Back: Brenda Hoffman, Kenny Walker, Tim Speiger, Mrs. Lois Brockway, Denton Eaglesha, Michael McLean, Linda Rockafellow. Centre: Eric Buston, Kenny Stall, Dale Giles, Tommy Reihs, Danny Shortt. Front: Kim Keller, Cathy Nelson, Karen Doty, Bruna de-Paoli, Cindy Irwin, Gale de-Paoli, Elaine de-Roaldes, Diane Walker.

Teachers for the weekly Shop and Home Economics classes travelled between the Divisional Schools.

The teacher shortage during the war and after was a serious problem, and if it had not been for the married teachers returning to the class-rooms, the problem would have been insurmountable. As the birth-rate had been very low during the Depression period enrollment during the war years was small. In 1958 only two students graduated from Grade Twelve, but waves of big classes followed right behind..the war-time babies!

The school population continued to increase. Van routes extended west to take in the Fosk district and as far west as Cartwright's Ranch (EP), a distance of about twenty five miles, and it became necessary to build the present school in 1960. The cost of the new school with its eleven class-rooms, gymnasium and library was $288,936. Frankburg School building was retained to serve as Projection Room and Television class-room. The school grounds were extended by two acres. The bell from the brick school, which was torn down, was taken by Glenbow Foundation at Calgary.

Extra Curricular Activities

During the early years School Fairs were held and students exhibited penmanship, art, cooking, handicrafts, garden vegetable and livestock.

A Debating Society was formed in 1924 when Louis Whitehorn was principal of the school. The team began with Kathleen Shier, Madge Keller, Rea Howard and Isabelle Sloane. Madge later dropped out and Nora Learned took her place on the team. Topics of the day including Capital Punishment and The Hudson Bay Railway were debated with other teams from such points as Magrath, Parkland and Banff, with the Cayley team placing high in the Southern Alberta Division.

High School curling was organized by S.A. Lindstedt with rinks taking part in inter-school bonspiels.

The first High School Graduation Banquet was held in 1950 when Mr. Lindstedt was principal. It was very successful and the banquets were carried on for quite a number of years.

For many years students of Mrs. Denison's room went to Calgary by bus to spend one day touring points of interest in the city.

Left to right: Mrs. W. Skory, Mrs. L. Newsome, Mrs. L. Ruark, Mrs. G. Noble, Mrs. W. Denison (teacher), bus driver, Mrs. E. Herbig and Mrs. Allen Baker. These parents were supervisors on a school-tour of Calgary.

In 1918 it was voted to consolidate Meadow Bank, Mosquito Creek and Last Chance Schools although the schools continued to operate individually until they joined the Foothills Division.

Cayley Teachers

1904-1929

Records were not available for teachers prior to 1930, but as memory serves, the teachers before that time were:

J.T. North	1904
Marie Caspell	1908
Miss Noble	1909
Mr. Fitzpatrick	
Fanny Loban	1911
George Coyne	1912
Mr. Lund and Miss Gunn	1913
Roy Gould and Nellie Duncan	1914-15
Miss Purdy	
Miss Wood	
Murdoch McKenzie	
Betty Steen	
Miss McMillan, Town Hall	1919
Katherine Gillespie	1919
Miss Knox	1921
Lillian Evans	1922
Miss Miller	1922
Helen Dewer	
Mr. Marshall	
Dorothy McNichol	1922
Margaret Eaglesham	1922-23
Miss Rogers	1923
Jean McDougall	1923
Mr. Cohen	
Louis Whitehorn	1924-25
Helen Spicer	1924-25
Miss Kay	1924-25
Mr. Maberley	1924-25
Miss Armstrong	
Rowena Elves	1925
Anna Watt	1927-28
Kenneth Young	1927-28
Helen McKay	1927-28
Mr. McDonald	
Kathleen Shier	1929-33
Janie Brown	1929-35,1940-41
Evelyn Willison	1929-30
Peter Spence	1930-32
Lynwood Walker	1932-34
Lois Litle	1933-37
Marguerite Schnelle	1937-41
Rita Gilchrist	1937-43
L.R. Workman	1934-38
Arthur P. Grant	1938-41
Margaret C. Meyers	1941-43
Mrs. Jean Gilchrist	1941-44
E.W. James	1941-45
Sadie Sande	1941-42
Lola Bateman	1943-44
Ann Sutherland	1943-44
Geraldine Bramfield	1944-46
Mrs. H. Arnold	1946-47, 1948-51
Elva Wood	1944-46
Mrs. Doris Rasmusen	1945-46
Norma Ryan	1945-46
S.A. Lindstedt	1945-50
Frederick Powell	1946-47
G.A. Carlson	1946-47
Margaret Foster	1946-48
Margaret Lane	1947-48
Patricia Holmes	1947-48
Hazel Glidden	1948-49
Mrs. Ione Denison	1948-51
and 1953-55, and	1957-66
Shirley Swinton	1949-50
E.A. Bullied	1949-50
Phyllis McLean	1950-52
Elsie Simmermon	1950-51
Henry Unger	1950-51
Mr. Deyell	1951-52
Mrs. Nellie Cole	1951-53, 1966-67
Mrs. Kitty Curran	1951-67
Mrs. Joyce McPheeters	1951-67
Stanley Norris	1952-55
Mrs. Roy Shaefer	1952-54
Dawna Cole	1952-53
Gladys Anderson	1954-55
Miss K. May	1954-56
Mrs. Marjory Norris	1955-56
Mrs. Dorothy Way	1955-57
Mrs. Margaret Kinzell	1955-56
Stanley Kretz	1956-59
Mrs. Marie Rendleman	1956-57
Mrs. Doris Tutte	1957-64, 66-67
Mrs. M. MacDonald	1957-58
Mrs. M. Brockway	1958-67
Wesley Taylor	1959-60
Ben Halbert	1960-62
Mrs. Alice Halbert	1960-62
Mrs. Kring	1960-61
James Cole	1961-62
Mrs. Eileen Serediak	1961-63
Howard Garrett	1962-64
Steven Baronek	1962-67
Sally Slifka	1963-66
Ken McPherson	1963-64
Don Tannas	1964-66

Clive Morris	1964-65
Mrs. Hart	1963-64
Miss Mable Edler	1964-67
C. Rousseau	1966-67
George Darling	1966-67

P.T. Instructors
Michael Dolinski
Gordon Day

Home Economics
Mrs. Ritchie
Rita Gilchrist
Mrs. Rita Beagle
Mrs. Wilson
Mrs. Sam Brown
Mrs. Ross Giles

Shop
Dick Cunningham
Mr. Gillanders
Mr. Freisen
Thos. Humphrey
Commercial
Mr. W. O'Ruski

Do-It-Yourself High School

There were eighteen or so students ready for High School about 1919 - but no High school for them to go to. Most of the parents felt board and room in High River or Nanton beyond their financial ability but all efforts to get a High school in Cayley met with strong opposition.

George Wickens, for one, was very concerned and he and the other parents got together and persuaded the Village Council to let them use the Town Hall as a class room, free of charge. The Council agreed and also offered to supply the coal for the pot-bellied stove. The Arthur school was closed at the time, and their School Board, when approached, agreed to loan their desks. The Department at Edmonton, when confronted with the sincerity of the sponsoring group, came through with a school grant. Max Morrison agreed to act as Secretary-Treasurer for the group.

Miss McMillan, M.A. of Toronto was hired to teach Grades 9, 10 and 11 at a guaranteed annual salary of $2000.00, and the parents each paid an equal share per pupil towards this amount. At the end of the year the total cost per student amounted to $95.00. It was much less costly than board and room would have been. The school was an unqualified success, with all pupils passing the Departmental Exams. The following year, 1920, the new two-story three-roomed school was built.

Among those who attended the "do-it-yourself school" were Charleton Wickens, Rowena Elves, Ernie Latham, Lynwood Walker, Beatrice Beaton, Charlie Wickson, Stuart McLaren, George Houlden, Wilbur Rasmusen, Margaret, John and Hugh Eaglesham, Bud Burns, Fred Hobbs, Lionel Ingle and Harold Elves.

Telephones

For several years Cayley had only one telephone. It was in Elves store and was connected with High River. In 1909 the first rural lines were built and "listening in" on the party lines became a popular pastime. The phones played a big part in the life of the community. The ladies could ring up and chat with one another, and when someone got a new record for their phonograph the line was called and everyone would stand back and listen to the latest recording. The switchboard serving the district was in the Post Office and was open for day service only. Emergency calls only were answered at night, or on Sundays or holidays. High River calls were Long Distance. The telephone system at that time was owned and maintained entirely by the Alberta Government.

During the Depression telephone bills were unpaid, many telephones were taken out and the government-owned-system found it could no longer finance operations. In order to keep their phones the farmers had no choice but to take over operation and maintenance of their lines, and so the Rural Mutual Telephone Companies were organized in 1936. The switchboard was removed from Cayley and connection made with the High River exchange. Local exchange and long distance service was still maintained by the AGT.

The Rural Mutuals which are still operating, appoint Directors to make repairs and maintain operation on each line. Billings and collections are made by Mutual Secretaries. The Companies have provided service at low rates for more than thirty years, but due to difficulty in properly maintaining lines there have been frequent disruptions of service. Over-crowded lines have also contributed to less than satisfactory phone service.

Automatic dialing came into use in the 1950's and Direct Distance Dialing in 1964. Private lines for the Village and nearby farmers are scheduled for the summer of 1967 when Alberta Government Telephones will again take over operation.

"Cayley Hustler"

Cayley once had a flourishing little newspaper, with fourteen Cayley business places represented in the advertising columns. It was edited by Rev. Frank Bushfield and started in 1910. It was published monthly and consisted of six pages, 9x12 and the subscription rate was thirty five cents a year or five cents a copy. There were 100 paid-up subscribers.

The January 14th edition, the second published, contained fourteen ads "from every business in town". Amongst news items was that Mr. Thruan had the contract to break 2000 acres of land for crop on the C-C Ranch; that Mr. Swim had sold his farm and gone to Mexico; George Robertson had moved his real estate office from High River to Cayley and advertised land from $12.00 to $22.50 per acre; Thirty cars of cattle had been shipped from Cayley in a six day period. Hotel rates were $1.50 a day, "commercial and rancher trade catered for".

Social items included that Cayley young people held a "hop" in Mr. MacDonalds hall; that Miss M. Caspell, popular teacher, had resigned; that Miss Noble of High River will be the new public school teacher; Mr. and Mrs. Ducommun were surprised by a great rush-in of young people welcoming them to their new home and presenting them with a beautiful oak chair. It was also reported that quite a number of bachelors had gone east for Christmas and were said to be returning with brides.

Candidates for the village council, with election January 17th were Dr. A.O. Brown, J.W. Bradley, L. Beaton, F. Scragg and Ed. Elves. Elected to road council were C. Brown, M.E. Barker, F.C. Roy and J.L. Brown.

The age-worn copy of the little paper was saved over more than half a century by Mrs. A.H. Ducommun, High River.

Natural Gas

The gas line from Bow Island to Calgary was put through the Cayley district in 1912 but there was no local service. In 1921 the same line was used to bring gas from Turner Valley to Southern Alberta points. The Village of Cayley was connected to the line in 1929. Farmers who owned land through which the pipeline passed were eligible for gas service at that time - but few of them installed it.

In later years the Company (Canadian Western Natural Gas Company Limited) was less reluctant to serve rural customers but the cost of approximately $3000.00 to bring the gas one-quarter mile was prohibitive in most cases. The use of plastic pipe has reduced the cost of installation, and special lines to serve rural residents will soon be under construction.

Lights and Power

About 1923 Barr and Schnelle installed a 32 volt generator run by a six-horsepower engine, and Cayley residents had lights for the first time. The plant ran from sundown to Midnight, and if there was an occasional blackout it was probably only because the boys at the garage had been too busy to remember to put gas in the engine. The plant also operated between eight and ten on Mondays for washing and on Tuesdays for ironing. The Village was first served by Calgary Power in 1928.

The Depression and War Years delayed rural power installations to the late 1940's. The line south from Highview (one of the first) was built in 1947. Neighbours along the routes banded together to negotiate terms and to share the cost of the line, which in most cases averaged out at $1000,00 for each subscriber. The farmers dug the holes for the power poles and the Company contracted the linework. Within a few years the entire country was electrified. Coal oil and gasoline lamps were put away and electric washing machines replaced gasoline driven ones. Having the power enabled farmers to put in water-systems, and in rapid succession modern comforts and conveniences came to Cayley farm homes.

History of Cayley United Church

Worship services were first held in 1904 in the school south of town by ministers and laymen from Nanton and High River. Services were also held in the homes of Mr. and Mrs. George Wickens and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Walker.

In 1904 the Methodist Church was built under the supervision of Rev. Mr. Wood of the High River Methodist Church and was supplied by several student ministers. Some of the first elders were Mr. R. Houlden, Mr. Elves, Mr. C. Howard and Mr. Chas. Gardiner.

In 1905 Mr. John Wood, then a student minister of the Presbyterian Church served Longview, Meadowbank and Cayley, fording the river on horseback. Services were held in McDonald's Hall above F.F. McDonald's store which stood where the present church now stands. In 1909 an implement building was purchased and fixed up and named the Presbyterian Hall. Besides the main auditorium there was a study and a kitchen which several of the ministers used for living quarters as there was no manse. The Hall was also used for Young People's gatherings and other functions of both churches. The first elders of this Church were William Caspell, Donald Sinclair and Hugh Johnson. Mr. Johnson became clerk of the Session, which office he held faithfully for many years.

Presbyterian services were held in the morning, Methodist at night and Union Sunday School in the afternoon. In 1925 the two churches became one in the United Church of Canada.

In 1944 Rev. John Wood came to Cayley and it was under his pastorate and due to his enthusiasm and the volunteer help of many of the members that the present church was built. It was dedicated in 1949 and named the Wood Memorial Church.

Eva Cumming

Cayley Sunday School about 1912

Ladies' Aid at Sloane farm about 1932.

The Presbyterian Church

When the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches united several of the Presbyterian families were not in favor of this move so they formed their own church. Services were held in Mrs. Hall's home and in the Town Hall until 1928 when they built a new church, this Church was served by Ministers from neighbouring churches. Mr. Peter Walker was secretary-treasurer and elder until his death. After several of the older members passed away the congregation dwindled and in 1958 the church was sold to the Baptist church in Nanton and moved there.

E. Cumming

Anglican Church

Church was held upstairs over Fred McDonald's store. Rev. Hinchey was the minister around 1909. Among those attending were the Houlden, Hallett and Latham families.

There were magic lanter slides at church in 1910.

Church Anniversary

The fiftieth anniversary of the Cayley church was held on October 18, 1964. Members from years gone by returned from many parts of the province for the occasion. Rev. S.H. Irving of Vancouver gave the anniversary sermon. His presence was especially appreciated by those who knew that his son, Bill, had died suddenly the evening before.

Cayley Ministers -- 1905-1967

Presbyterians:

Some services were held by Rev. Stewart of High River in the school south of Cayley.

John Wood, Student	1905	
Rev. Fletcher, spring of	1908	
Rev. John McLean, June,	1908	First settled ordained Minister
Rev. John McLean Beaton	1909-1912	
Rev. John McInnis	1913-1914	
J.Y. McGookin, Student	1914-1915	
Rev. A.D. McIntosh	1915	
Rev. A.C. McWilliams	1916-1920	
Rev. Wm. McNichol	1920-1925	Supplied from High River

Methodist:

Church built in 1905, supplied by Student Ministers:
Mr. Hayworth, Mr. E.T. Scragg, Mr. Burgoyne and Mr. Piper.

Rev. Frank Bushfield	1909-1912	First resident Minister.
Rev. Oliver Mann	1912	
Rev. Cyril Eassom	1915	Rev. Eassom also served part time in Pres. Church.
Rev. S.H. Irving	1915-1922	
Rev. C.E. Rogers	1922-1925	

Church Union - 1925:

Rev. J.N. Wilkinson	1925-1927	Ross Morgan	1959-1962
Rev. George Watt	1927-1935	Mrs. J.E. Henderson	1962-65
Rev. J.E. Kirk	1935-1940	Waynne Shortt	1965-67
Rev. H.J. Bevan	1940-1943		
Rev. Arthur Carr	1943-1944		
Rev. John Wood	1944-1953		
Rev. James McKelvey	1953-1958		
John Dekker	1958-1959		

Tuxis and Trail Rangers

The Tuxis and Trail Ranger Groups of Cayley were said to be the first of organized groups, known as the Canadian Standard Efficiency Tests in the Dominion of Canada. That was the word of Taylor Statten of Toronto, the chief organizer of the same. This movement stressed four phases of development of the growing boy, namely, - physical, mental, social and spiritual. Awards in the form of badges were given the boys as they made progress along these four lines.

In Cayley, the groups were the "Porcupines" (Tuxis) and the "Baby Porcupines" (Trail Rangers).

It began very simply as an organized Sunday Class, with a mid-week meeting, usually taking place after a "Bean Feed" as it was called. This was usually held at the Manse and occasionally at the home of one of the boy members.

As the clubs grew in membership, S.H. Irving found a ready and efficient helper in L. Beaton, and with these two men the work was carried on for many years. Older Tuxis - I think especially of one, Gordon Cameron, could be relied upon to help at times, when called upon, especially at Summer Camps.

Back row: Ernie Latham, Lynwood Walker, Clinton Keller, Carl Rasmusen, Arnold Roy, John Eaglesham, Chas. Wickson, George Houlden, Vinton Roy, Elliot Eaglesham, Harold Elves, Stuart McLaren, Hugh Eaglesham, unknown, O. Sutermeister, Cecil Bray, Rev. S. Irving. Front row: Billie Irving, Arty Wickson, Paul Walker, Gerald Baker, Albert Rasmusen, Don Beaton. Small boy – Vere Irving.

Many successful camps were held at the foot of the mountains. I recall one very interesting and worthwhile camp was held when Rev. R. Dalgleish of High River, brought his boys along and we camped together. He showed the boys some very high jumps on the pole vault.

The "Father and Son" banquets had always been one of the features of the year. Good programs were prepared and no place could excel Cayley, when it came to providing chicken suppers. Such banquets were always followed up by a Boy's Service on Sunday, in which the boys themselves took important parts. There were Educational Trips, such as a visit to the museum at Calgary, the Agricultural College, Industrial concerns and lectures by "Bird Men."

Later on as the movement spread in nearby towns, successful conclaves were held at different towns, High River, Nanton, Parkland, Stavely, Blackie as well as Cayley. A full program of sports and other events were run off. At one such gathering, held at Cayley, where there were present a large number of adults in the I.O.O.F. Hall, Taylor Statten, the guest speaker, said that he had never seen so enthusiastic a gathering in a small town any where in the Dominion of Canada. This spoke well for the interest, enthusiasm and help of the people of Cayley, without which the movement could not have been a success.

One year the Porcupines were able to win the pennant for the highest amount raised in the share selling contest for their district.

Through the years, I have lost track of some of the boys, but I know that many of them have turned out to be fine men and a credit to their community. They have, I believe, discovered for themselves that "Life is not a goblet to be drained, but a measure to be filled".

Rev. S.H. Irving

Cayley Lodges

Woodman Lodge organized in 1910 was Cayley's first Order. The officers were: E.W. Caspell, A.W. Axtell, J. Sloane, G. Swartz, Dr. A.O. Brown, J.S. Elves, H. Schnelle, Rev. F. Bushfield, W. Carr.

Cayley I.O.O.F. No. 103.

On July 9, 1913, this Lodge came into being when seven third degree members formed the necessary nucleus to apply for a charter. These were Arthur White, Bert Widdup, George Wickens, Jack Cohen, Manse Newton and F.F. MacDonald. A few of these had been Oddfellows elsewhere and some had joined the High River Lodge so that they could be eligible to sign the charter application. At the institution meeting eighteen more were initiated and Grand Master Fairley conducted the election of officers. Fred MacDonald was the first Noble Grand and George Wickens was the first Vice Grand. Among those first members we find several whose family associations with this lodge have continued through the years - Beaton, Shier, Couey, Wickens and Elves.

School being moved to I.O.O.F. site.

The first meetings were hel d in the MacDonald building (situated) where the United Church is now). The hall was heated by an old pot-bellied stove (the coal bin across the alley was shared with the Bank of Hamilton). Kerosene lamps supplied the light until 1920 when flickering electric lights were provided by a motor-driven plant across the street in the brick garage.

The members were an enthusiastic bunch - even holding meetings on New Years Eve.

A new brick school had been built in 1921. An I.O.O.F. committee, Max Morrison and George Wickens, arranged the purchase of the old school for $600.00-$50.00 in cash, the balance to be paid within one year. Two $1000.00 loans were obtained locally at 8% and another Thousand from the Bank of Hamilton and work began on moving and renovating this school building.

Quoting from a letter received in 1963 at the time of the lodges Fiftieth Anniversary - written by Fred Bicknell now of New Westminister.

"The basement was dug by a team and scraper and finished by pick and shovel by the members. Nearly every day I hauled gravel with four horses and a wagon from the creek bed between Cayley and Nanton and the members mixed and poured cement with wheel barrows. The stockyards were being rebuilt and we borrowed a lot of 3x12 planks from there, jacks from the section gang and farmers, and we jacked the building up. It was some job because the jacks were in so many different sizes - we put planks under her and then borrowed cedar posts from Brother Frank Davis of the lumber yard and used them for rollers. Somewhere we had borrowed a Capstain windlass. We'd anchor it solidly in the ground, hitch a horse or a mule to the sweep and with heavy rope that building was moved an inch at a time to its present site. It was a real job to get it on the foundation with our poor jacks and equipment and believe me we were proud of our success. Then we tackled the job of remodelling and building on. There weren't many slackers in that lodge, and those that were sure weren't popular!

The first dance in November of 1921 was advertised and we really weren't ready. The floor was oiled and would not dry so we got some hay bales from Gribbles livery barn and spent that afternoon pulling them around to soak up the oil. Then we added cornmeal and scoured it with fresh bales. A dusty mess! At 7.30 we finished cleaning up and the crowd started to come. They danced for three hours on cornmeal and after we swept it up and sprinkled on wax everybody said it was the best floor in the country. We sure were proud".

It took a long time to pay off the loans. In 1936 George Wickens was given the privilege of burning the last note and for the first time the Odd Fellows were free of debt.

The records show the lodges provided entertainment for the community in many ways. The hall was given rent free for church and school Christmas concerts. They held dances, card parties and box socials. They sponsored minstrel shows, chautauque and silent movies. From 1919 to 1923, each May 24th, they held horse races and a track meet in the Cayley park (until Paul Walker was killed by a race horse in 1923). A few years later sports days on the 24th were held again - but no horse racing - just track meet and ball tournaments. "Interlodge" sports days were also held in which the lodges competed for a silver challenge trophy with such events as baseball, foot races, horse shoes, fat man's race, tug-of-war, ladies race, etc. Cayley was often the winner. For several years the I.O.O.F. maintained a free public tennis court on the east side of the hall.

There have been good times and bad times. In 1929 Cayley 103 was cited as having the greatest increase in membership in Alberta. In the Thirties, however, the Charter was almost handed in because of financial difficulties. A few faithful members sparked another burst of fraternal pride (and sacrifice) and the lodge made a come-back. In 1939 Nanton amalgamated with Cayley, adding thirty-five members.

Two of the members of Cayley #103 have brought honor to the lodge by going through the Grand Lodge chairs; William Hanson is a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Alberta; Marvin Brockway is a Past Grand Patriarch of the Grand Encampment of Alberta and also a Past Department Commander of the Patriarchs Militant, two branches of the Order of Odd Fellows. *Lola Hanson*

Fern Leaf Rebekah Lodge No. 36.

The sisters of this lodge have always worked side by side with their brother Odd Fellows - this lodge, too was instituted in 1913 on September 13th. The institution ceremony was held in the Presbyterian church across the street and lunch was served in the I.O.O.F. hall in the MacDonald building. Thirty-two members signed the Charter - eighteen sisters and 15 brothers, all but five being initiated that day (the first five had joined the High River Harmony No. 11 lodge so that they could sign the petition for a Charter. Maude Widdup was installed as the first Noble Grand, Iva Crawford as Vice Grand, Alice Sterling (Mrs. Jimmie Brown) as Secretary and Minnie McLennen as Treasurer.

By December of that same year Fern Leaf had its own degree team of eleven sisters and put the degree on twice that month! Brother Arthur White was the first degree captain, followed by Dr. A.O. Brown in 1914 and by Max Morrison in 1918 and later by George Wickens. In later years degree mistresses have lead the teams.

Away back in 1920 it was suggested that a Fern Leaf degree team compete for the Davies Challenge Trophy at the Rebekah Assembly. This became a lodge dream but it was not until 1954 that a try was made and in 1955 the Trophy was brought home to Cayley. This team was the only seven-sister team in the province and was called upon to demonstrate in quite a number of lodges in Southern Alberta.

Mrs. Len Beaton is the only Fern Leaf Member who has received the Degree of Chivalry from the lodge, presented in a beautiful ceremony by the Patriarchs Militant.

Mother's Day Tea

L. to R.: Mrs. I. Brockway - newest mother, Mrs. R. Brockway - newest grandmother, Mrs. G. Houlden - youngest grandmother, Mrs. B. Widdup - oldest grandmother, Mrs. Alex Arnold - most grandchildren.

Rebekahs and Odd Fellows have always worked for the good of the community and supported charitable organizations. They also support an I.O.O.F. Crippled Childrens fund which assists any needy children, whether or not the parents belong to the Order. They also support the fund for the Annual Pilgrimage for Youth whereby several hundred young people from Canada and the United States attend the United Nations sessions in New York and visit with the various delegates from the Nations of the world.

The I.O.O.F. hall is very necessary to the well-being of the Cayley community, being the only building in the town for public recreational activities. As the town has dwindled away the old community customs and functions can only be maintained if there is a hall in which to centre them.

Garages and Service Stations

Cayley's first "Service Station" was a barrel of gasoline behind Elves Hardware. The Model T's and McLaughlan-Buicks would pull up in front of the store and Jack Elves would carry the pail of gas through the store, and using a funnel would pour it into the gas-tank - which on the Model T's was under the front seat of the car!

Around 1916 Louis and Billy Schnelle started a garage where Edey's service station now stands. It was a bit premature as there were still not many cars in the country. The building later burned.

McPherson's brick garage was next, built in 1919. It was rented to George Barr, Shead and Witlock, with Witlock's share being later purchased by Billy Schnelle. McKay and Watson took over in 1925 and Smythe and McNamee in 1928. Hap Reagh rented the garage in the early 1930's.

In 1928 Hap Reagh opened a repair shop in the back of Clarence Thompson's implement building on the main street, and George Robertson sold gas and oil in the front part. Later George's son Ralph took over the service station. Others who operated this business were Archie Walker, Jim Thompson, Ralph Robertson from High River, Kocher and Acherly, and finally Alex Holstein. The building has since been torn down.

A.A. Fowler opened a service station in the vacated bank building in 1933, selling to Alec Tetachuk in 1937. When the building burned Alec operated from from the former butcher shop, later building his present service station on the highway.

Norman and Mervyn Edey built a service station and repair shop north of the Post Office - on the site of Billy Schnelle's first garage - which they operated for a number of years. Boyd Elliot was the last operator.

E.E. Reagh opened a service station and repair shop on the site of the old bank which he later sold to Dobie Brothers. The shop is now operated by Creel Sanders.

Post Office

Postmasters:		Helpers:
George Wickens	First postmaster. 1903 – 1912	
Fred Scragg	Post office on corner across south-east of Depot. Also Telephone. He built present post office and part of house. Left post office about 1919.	Jack Cohen
Wesley Ferris	Lived in house at rear of office.	Stella Barker Mansfield Newton Cecil Burns Janet Richardson
George Shields	Purchased office and house.	Clarence Shields Inez Carlberg
C.W. McCrea	"Mac" took over post office and purchased office and house in 1928. He enlarged the living quarters about 1933. They sold the living quarters in 1962 and bought the Murray Caspell home. Mac is still our postmaster.	Jack Boyd until 1932 Aileen Walker Kay Hannett Edith Parker Alice Morris Dorothy Meyers Alta McCrea Verone McCrea Linda McCrea

A Kid's Life In Cayley

Shortly after the first war a circus came to town, and with it a company who staged Uncle Tom's Cabin in a side tent. The Cayley kids sat tense and terrified as the bad man chased Little Eva across the stage. Beatrice Cameron remembers how the eyes of the young audience filled with tears when Little Eva died and a veil was gently laid over her face. Ernie Latham says "We were shook-up for a week".

For a number of years Cayley boasted only one street light - a gas lamp on the corner across from the Station. Every evening at dusk the kids gathered 'round to watch Andy Meyers light the lamp with a long torch, then played around the light until it was time to go over to the Station and watch the train pull in. Ernie Latham was the last lamp-lighter before electric lighting was installed.

Ernie Latham was the last lamp-lighter before electric lighting was installed.

On foot, on horseback and on bicycle the kids made their way on hot summer days to the Swimming Hole on Mosquito Creek - or to a deep place down at Phil Wilkinson's on the Little Bow. There they learned to dive and dog-paddle - and may be, later on, to do the breast-stroke.

Cayley Cemetery

Where there is life - there also is death - so whenever settlers formed a new community a cemetery was soon a necessity.

The first graves at Cayley were placed in C. & E. land just East of town where they are still honored by the land owner, Leonard Beaton, Jr. who farms around them. Billie Barker, a nine year old boy, was placed there in 1904, followed by a Mr. Reid and a Mr. Johnson.

In 1910 the Cayley Cemetery Company, with agent, J.S. Elves, obtained title to a plot of ground 330 ft. by 396 ft. on the "water-right" quarter just West of town.

Church records show that Alice Scragg, aged sixty, and Mary Houlden were interred there in 1909 before the title was received.

In 1927 when the McDonald Block burned, the cemetery map burned too. As many of the graves had no markers it has been difficult to identify, for sure, some of those lying beneath the sod.

About 1950, the I.O.O.F. and Rebekah Lodges began holding Memorial Services each June in the cemetery to plant geraniums on the graves of departed members. These lodges now clean the cemetery each spring and have placed small markers to show who is sleeping in each grave there.

Lola Hanson

John and Jessie Elves

Johnny and I came to Cayley from Paisley, Ontario in 1906. We had intended to homestead in Saskatchewan but floods prevented us from reaching our destination, so Johnny and his brother Ed. came out to Nanton to visit their brother Jim. While there they learned of a hardware store for sale in Cayley. Ed. had had some experience in a hardware store so they changed their plans and bought the store. One drawback was that the store was located next door to the hotel which often got pretty noisy. I was wheeling the baby, Rowena, down the boardwalk one day and met a drunken man. I was terrified and got too close to the edge and upset the carriage. Some men rushed out of the store and rescued us.

In August Harold was born. There was no hospital or telephone so they had to drive to High River with the horse and buggy to get the Doctor. Harold had the distinction of supposedly being the first white baby born in Cayley and it was suggested that we name him Cayley, but we resisted the suggestion.

We had a team of ponies in the early days and used to drive to High River, Vulcan and Granum visiting friends. Also in the early days the C.P.R. used to run weekend excursions to Banff and you had to get up early to catch the train at six in the morning. A little later we were pioneers in the automobile field in Cayley and bought a Ford Touring car. I well remember our first major trip on a Sunday afternoon when Ed's and us took off for a drive, right down the main street. We came a cropper about a mile from town in a mud puddle and sneaked back to town on foot the back way.

After a few years in the old store, Ed. and Johnny with Fred McDonald, built a block on the site where the Church is now located. The first Presbyterian services

were held on the second floor of this block. Johnny later bought Ed's share of the store and continued in business until around 1925 when he sold to the Marshall Brothers from Nanton. The business was a varied one and Johnny was an undertaker, tinsmith and jack of all trades.

Cayley was quite a thriving town in the early days and we had a lot of good times. One of the highlights was the Chautauqua. This was a travelling show that lasted nearly a week with a new performance every afternoon and evening. To light the tent at night we used to soak cat tails in kerosene and light them.

We had three children, Harold now lives in Toronto, Rowena is Mrs. D.J. Moore and lives in Medicine Hat. Margaret is Mrs. L.E. Ingle and lives in Lethbridge. Johnny and I moved to Lethbridge in 1950 and Johnny passed away in September of 1953, and I am now making my home with Margaret and Les.

Jessie Elves

Mr. and Mrs. S.E. Elves

Ed Elves and S.L. Tiffin

S.E. (Ed.) Elves was one of a family of twelve - eight boys and four girls - in Bruce County Ontario. Mrs. Elves, the former Miss Isabelle McCaw, was also from a family of twelve - five girls and seven boys - in the same Ontario county. As a matter of fact the two families lived only six miles apart, but Ed. and Belle never met until after they had grown up and Ed. had worked in North Dakota and returned home for a visit.

Ed. came to Cayley with his brother Johnny in 1906 and the two brothers bought out the Stimson and Smith Hardware in what was later the Kwong Lung building. In 1907 he returned to Ontario for his bride. When they arrived in Cayley they jumped from the train steps to bare ground. The wooden platform was still to come.

A few years later Elves Brothers put up a two-story building to house their business on the location where the United Church now stands. Fred McDonald added to the building and the whole structure became known as the McDonald Block. Besides McDonalds General Store and Elves Hardware there was a Drug store and Bank in the block. Upstairs was a public hall used for dances and concerts, lodge meetings and church services. There were also house-keeping suites.

As well as a big stock hardware, Elves Brothers carried a full line of household furniture. Good varnished chairs sold for 65 cents. The chairs were manufactured in Elves' old home town of Chesley, and were shipped knocked down. Freight charges accounted for one-third of their cost. After more than fifty years some of these chairs are still in use in the Church hall and Sunday school and in the I.O.O.F. hall. Elves Brothers slogan was "You furnish the wife - we'll furnish the house!"

Working days were long, and before and after business hours Ed. worked at tin-smithing, making stove pipes, well-casings and metal chimneys. In his spare time he set up and glued those chairs from Ontario. He had learned something of the undertaking business in North Dakota, and as there was a need for such services in Cayley, undertaking was added to the hardware, furniture and tinsmithing

business. Another brother, Fred Elves, came out from Ontario and clerked in McDonald's store until he went homesteading in the Vulcan area.

In those early days much of the business was done on a charge-it-'till-fall basis. Ed. did the collecting, driving over the countryside with his team of ponies bringing in the accounts which were in arrears. He was a good collector and they seldom had to write an account off their books. "The settlers who came here to make new homes", says Mr. Elves, "were hardworking honest people - the best in the world".

Ed. was concerned about the amount of business from both east and west which was going to High River and Nanton, so he painted metal signs "X miles to Cayley", and as he drove about making collections tacked them up at strategic points along the trails. "That put Cayley on the map", he says. Trade from as far as 70 miles east and to the foothills in the west brought increased business to all Cayley merchants.

One memory Ed. still chuckles over was the time in 1909 when Mrs. Smith came to the store to buy a new bed. While she was being shown the various beds in stock she suddenly remembered, and mentioned, that she wanted to buy a chamber too. The shelves where such enamelware sundries were displayed were nearby, so Ed. stepped over and reached toward them for the required item. As he did so he enquired, "What size do you want?". Mrs. Smith, who still had her eye on the beds, replied, "Big enough for two".

Ed. and Joe Welsh, one of the old time travellers who happened to be in the store, doubled up with laughter. When Mrs. Smith realized the reason for their laughter she enjoyed the joke too. Ed. and Joe laugh all over again whenever they happen to meet and Joe says, "D'ya remember..."

Mr. Elves was appointed Police Magistrate in 1910, and held office for many years.

While serving on the village Council, Ed. was responsible for having large concrete cisterns, 6' x 6' x 8', installed underground in the alley-ways throughout the village and filled with water for fire protection. While fire destroyed many buildings including the McDonald-Elves block in 1927, others were saved by water pumped from the cisterns. When the McAfee home burned, next door to Mr. and Mrs. Elves, the Elves house would have gone but for the water poured upon it from the cisterns.

Elves Brothers had one of Cayley's first cars - a model T Ford bought in 1912 for $985.00. Ed. bought it in Calgary, and the dealer gave him his first and only driving lesson - once around the block. He started immediately for home in spite of the fact that it was raining and the road was very muddy. The mud was too much and he finally left the car at Okotoks and took the train home.

Calgary was a long way to drive in those days, the CPR ran an excursion, so Mr. and Mrs. Elves took the train to Calgary's first Stampede. On the return trip the engine had a hard time puffing its way up the long Azure grade with its string of passenger cars. So slowly did it move that Ed. had time to get off it and pick some of the strawberries that grew by the track, catch up and get on again!

In later years Ed. sold his interest in the store to Johnny, and took up farming one mile east of town. Mr. and Mrs. Elves made their home on the farm for many years.

Their only son Clifford passed away as a young boy. Their daughter, Mildred,

Mrs. S.A. Linstedt, resides in Calgary. Mildred, an accomplished musician, contributed a great deal to the community - giving music lessons to children, playing the piano for church and leading the choir. Ed, too, was a choir member for many years.

Mr. Elves has been a charter member of the I.O.O.F. since its inception by Dr. G.D. Stanley in 1913. Mrs. Elves is a charter member of the Rebekahs. Both are faithful supporters of the United Church.

They retired to their old home in Cayley some years ago, where they celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1957. Their Diamond Anniversary in 1967 was celebrated in Calgary.

Mr. and Mrs. Elves have seen Cayley grow to a thriving business centre and fade again to a quiet village. They are part of it, and to them it will always be the finest place in the world.

Iris Keller

Frank Elves

Mr. Frank Elves opened the first harness and shoe repair shop in Cayley, and operated this business for nearly thirty years. In 1929 the gas line came into Cayley and his was the first home to be connected as a working unit with this modern blue flame.

In 1915 he purchased a quarter section of land four miles south of town from Bert Hoffman with the Mosquito Creek running through it and here he used to walk and enjoy the lovely scenery.

Frances Beaton

Mr. and Mrs. David Elves

David Elves and his eight sons taken on Elves Sr. 50th Anniversary in Cayley, 1915.

Mr. and Mrs. David Elves and their oldest son Frank and youngest daughter Laura, arrived in Cayley in May 1913 from Paisley, Ontario to join several members of their family who had already settled here. In 1915 Mr. and Mrs. Elves celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary, which was the first one held in the Cayley district. All twelve children were present for this gala affair. Sandy Durham came and entertained them on his bagpipes.

To occupy some of his leisure hours Mr. Elves was caretaker of the church. He always carried a supply of peppermints for the little ones at Sunday School and this act is remembered by some of these same little ones to-day who are in their 50's.

Frances Beaton

Nurse Murray

Nurse Murray, certified nurse and diplomaed midwife, opened a cottage hospital

in Cayley in 1906. "Doctor in attendance if required. Terms moderate." said her opening notice in the Nanton News.

Nurse Murray was quite a vigorous lady who worked hard for the people of Cayley trying to nurse them to health. She established a little hospital in what is now T. Fitzgerald's house, and brought some TB patients to care for.

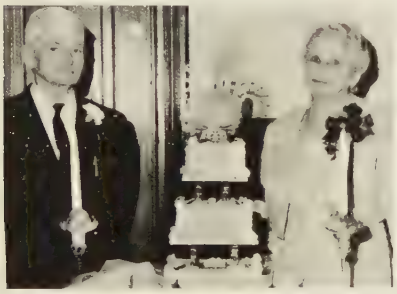
Originally she came from Australia and had nursed in many parts of the world. She often told of running away from three Catholic convents in which her devout mother had placed her.

She was a homesteader too. She proved up on a quarter section on Timber Ridge west of Nanton and walked to and from town when supplies were needed. Her place was rented for years by the Sears brothers. After leaving Cayley she nursed for a time at Okotoks, later moving to Calgary.

Mabel Coote

The Beaton Family

In 1907 a young couple, Len and Lena Beaton, with small daughters Beatrice and Bessie, came to Cayley from Wallaceburg, Ontario, to run the butcher shop for George Wickens. Coming to Cayley was a decision they never regretted. Almost sixty years later they are still residents of the village. Four other children were born to them, and of these, two sons and a daughter with their families also reside in the home town. Also a grandson and his family, making four generations of the Beaton family still in Cayley.



After a year in the meat market Len decided to quit butchering and become a "squatter". He built a shack on a quarter of land in the Millarville district, but after the shack was built he changed his mind and came back to Cayley. He never returned to the quarter again, and to this day has never learned who took over and squatted in his squatter's shack.

After a period of working at various jobs, including fanning wheat at $1.00 per day, he purchased the butcher shop from Mr. Wickens and from that time was on his own.

In 1909 he built a butcher shop and Dr. Brown built a drug store with a common wall between. The Beatons built a small house at the rear which was later enlarged. The drugstore half of the building was later used by the Municipal District of Riley. All that remains of the building at present is the concrete vault of the Municipal office.

Beef could be bought from the farmers and ranchers in 1909 for three to four cents a pound. Beefsteak retailed at ten or fifteen cents, depending on the cut. A big tender roast could be bought for seventy five cents. Mr. Beaton recalls selling Pat Burns $500.00 worth of loins - nothing but loins - for 12½ cents a pound. Liver was five cents a pound. Most of the weiners were given away free to the children, a pleasure for both Mr. Beaton and the children which was continued all the years of business.

Mr. Beaton is a small man, but he hung many a heavy quarter or side of beef on to the big hooks on the side of his sawdust-floored shop and lifted them down again to the cutting block. Mrs. Beaton, who worked side by side with her husband

in the shop, did her share of lifting and cutting too.

Keeping fresh meat before the days of electric refrigeration was not easy. Len had a big shelf for ice built above his cold storage vault, and several times a week, depending on the weather, he used a ladder to carry big blocks of ice up to the locker shelf. Every winter he packed a carload of ice in sawdust for use in the shop.

Most of the business was done on a credit basis.During the hard times of the 1930's the greater part of the business was done by barter. A farmer would bring in a beef or some pigs and take the value out in meat over the counter. If cash was available, the farmer would be paid ten or twenty dollars, with the balance to be taken in trade. Len sold beef of his own in Calgary for as little as one cent a pound.

During the early years an outfit bringing cattle in to the stockyards, stopped at an alkali slough to give the thirsty animals a drink. The concentration of alkali was high and the cattle became too ill to move. Putting out stock salt was not a routine matter then as it is today, and the fact that the cattle probably craved salt and so drank an inordinate amount of the slough water, was thought to be a contributing factor. Len was called out to butcher the animals on the spot. He put up a tripod and worked at top speed, but he had to ask for help and butchers were brought out from Calgary. Veterinarians certified the meat safe for consumption, and a whole car load of the carcasses was shipped to Burns.

Len remembers a fishing trip that took a rather grim turn. He and Doc Brown had taken the team and democrat and gone west past the Bar U, forded the river at Beaudry's and gone on to fish the upper Highwood. After camping overnight they breakfasted on canned beans from a slightly bulged can, and before mid-morning Doc Brown was seriously ill. Len bedded the sick doctor in the back of the democrat and set off for home with all speed, taking all possible short cuts. They drove through rain, lightning, thunder and on into the darkness without stopping. It was nearly midnight when they reached Cayley, and Mrs. Brown took charge of her ailing husband. It was several days before he was on his feet again.

Len and Doctor Brown purchased a half section of C and E land bordering the village on the east, Len later buying the Doctor's share out. In 1927 the Beatons moved their house to the farm. They resided in the farm home until 1962 when they moved into a smaller home.

Mr. and Mrs. Beaton were always faithful supporters of the Methodist and later the United Church. Mr. Beaton taught a boys' class for twenty years. Mrs. Beaton is a life member of the Missionary Society. They both have fifty year Jewels in the Odd Fellow and Rebekah Lodges, respectively, and Mrs. Beaton received a twenty five year service medal from the Canadian Red Cross.

It isn't long since Mr. Beaton was riding horse-back to look over his stock. He was a fine skater and was still enjoying a glide over the ice when his grandchildren were skating. At 85 years of age Mr. Beaton is still passing his annual driving test - and still driving.

The family of two sons and four daughters are Don and Leonard of Cayley, Beatrice (Mrs. Gordon Cameron) of High River, Bessie (Mrs. Charles Marshall) of Nanton, Ada (Mrs. Cy Watson) of Hanna, and Alta (Mrs. C.W. McCrea) of Cayley.

Mr. and Mrs. Beaton celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1954 and their Diamond Anniversary in 1964.

Iris Keller

Frances and Don Beaton

Don Beaton, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. L. Beaton, married Frances Cameron in 1935. Don operated his father's meat market after his father retired to the farm in 1937. He ran this business for several years until Locker Plants made the small town business a thing of the past. He then combined carpenter work and driving a school bus his occupation. Don is also raising chinchillas.

They have three sons. The eldest son, Calvin, is a commercial driver and he married Edna Ruark in 1963. They have one daughter, Penny Lynne and a son Wayne Leslie. The second son, Larry, is employed with Calgary Power Company and Bruce is employed with the Canadian Western Natural Gas Company.

Frances Beaton

Leonard J. Beaton

Leonard and Edna (Fowler) were married in 1937. Leonard is the farmer of the Beaton family, and in past years operated a small dairy which supplied the village with milk.

Len and Edna have five children. Amy attended university in Edmonton and taught in the Peace River District where she married Harvey Fontaine and now has a family of three. Roy joined the RCMP after finishing school. He was stationed at Moose Jaw for several years and married Miss Jaqualine Kampel. Fay took an Operative Technician course and is employed in Grace Hospital in Calgary. She married a High River boy, Ted Mills. Glen and Dan are still at home attending school.

Edna Beaton

Ernie Latham

Dad (Charles Latham) came to Cayley late in 1907 and Mother and I arrived the next March. Until we were able to arrange for a home we lived in a boarding house operated by Miss Edith Scragg. When Dad first arrived he worked for Mr. Charles Chaffee southeast of town.

My school life was not very happy at first. The kids teased me about my English ways and dress and made life pretty miserable. Dad built a house on the south side of town and opened a carpenter shop and we also kept four or five cows and sold milk and cream. My brother was born when I was about eight. He died just over a year later.

When the First War came Dad joined the 137th Battalion which recruited in High River. Harold Turner and Jack Bray joined at the same time. They arrived in France and were at the Front for two and a half years. All three returned after the armistice but Harold Turner was in poor health having been severely wounded and gassed at the Somme.

Meanwhile Mother ran a boarding house located on the west side of the Town Hall. The house was later burned. We had moved to a larger house across from Andy Meyer's shop. This house also later burned. Mother had many boarders over the years - Mr. Roy Gould, Jack Cohen, Vera Marshall, George Shields and many others. Some of the Chautauqua artists stayed at our place.

In the early days I remember the concern about going up town during cattle loading time in late summer and fall. The Hotel was operating and the bar was still legal. The cowhands made the front street pretty lively and most of our Mothers kept away. It was out-of-bounds for us kids too.

My friends and I used to go swimming in Mosquito Creek south of Widdups, but transportation was always a problem. One of the boys got a horse so it was arranged that he would ride to a certain spot, tie up the horse and start walking. When the rest of us reached the horse another boy would ride for a short distance and then leave the horse for another, until we all had a chance to ride part way.

Another time Clifford Elves, Harold Elves and I drove a horse and buggy to the Little Bow to fish. When evening came and we were ready to leave, the horse balked and nothing we could do convinced him that we wanted to go home. Long after dark Mr. Ed. Elves came looking for us in his 490 Chev, and naturally under the circumstances, he wasn't in a very good temper. We turned the horse loose and started home in the Chev. Along the road the lights failed and we ran right on top of a steer that was lying on the road. It was quite an experience to be in a Chev on a steer's back. The steer was able to buck himself free without any damage to the car. We arrived home about midnight. We hadn't been long in bed when the fire-bell rang. The garage next to the Post Office was burning. It was completely destroyed. In all it was quite a night!

When we finished grade eight there was no High School in Cayley to go on to, but there were enough of us so that it was cheaper to support a teacher collectively than to go to another town. Each student's share was $95.00 and Charlie Wickson and I earned most of our $95.00 by trapping muskrats on weekends.

Rev. Irving's coming to Cayley was a sort of turning point for most of us. He formed Tuxis and Trail Ranger groups. Bean suppers were regular events and a concert each year raised money for a camping trip in the summer - usually up the Highwood. I remember an incident when I was chairman of the concert committee. My music teacher arranged for Odette DeForas, who had just returned from Europe, to sing at our concert. The concert was held in the Presbyterian Church which was rather small with a low ceiling - at least small for an artist of Odette's calibre. The church was packed to hear her, but I'm afraid the people of Cayley weren't accustomed to operatic renditions, because with her first solo the audience was completely overpowered by volume and pretty near got under their seats! When the performance was over I asked Miss DeForas how much we owed her and she said ten dollars. It was my turn to be shocked. Whoever heard of anyone charging ten dollars to sing a song? It seemed a fortune to me!

Following the war Dad was leader of a small orchestra which specialized in concert music. A large number of old buildings in Cayley were built by Dad, but he excelled in cabinet-making. On my last visit to the United Church in Cayley I saw the book-case still in use that he built before the first war.

I was always interested in steam, and one of the proudest moments was when I obtained my Steam Engineers License and was the engineer on Jack Atcheson's threshing outfit.

We left Cayley about 1921 when Dad took a position as Instructor with Garbutt Motor School. Everyone's life is influenced by other people - either for good or bad, and I feel I owe a great deal to many Cayley people, particularly in the war years when Dad was away - to Mr. Irving, Mr. and Mrs. Beaton, Mr. and Mrs. John Elves, Mr. Sloane, Hughie Johnson, Bill Sutermeister, Bill Eaglesham - I could go on and on. To all these people and many others I am grateful.

Ernie Latham

The Scragg Family

Ted Scragg was the first of the Scragg family from Berton-on-Trent in England, to come to Cayley, arriving in 1907. His mother with her son and daughter, Fred and Edith, arrived later, accompanied by Will Hicklin.

Ted did not remain too long in the district, returning to Toronto to become a minister, and marrying there. He served several churches in Alberta, lastly in Edmonton, before his death there.

Fred entered into partnership in the Scragg-McMeakin Hardware, and a few years later succeeded George Wickens as postmaster. In 1911, he married Hattie Wickens. Following his term as postmaster, they bought the Adolphe Nelson homestead one mile east of town, where they resided until his death in 1921.

During his life, Fred Scragg was very active in church work, and was superintendent of the Sunday School for several years. During this time, we are told, that the children in the Sunday School looked forward to their regular visits to the Scragg home after Sunday School for Sunday dinner. Nothing short of a broken leg would keep them at home, and knowing the hospitality of that home, as well as the bountiful dinner they would receive, we don't blame them.

Mrs. Scragg, known as "Aunt Hattie" to most of the children of the district, moved to Calgary in 1928, and lived there until moving to High River two years prior to her death in 1965 at the age of 88.

Edith Scragg married Will Farrell.

Margaret Wickens

Will and Edith Farrell

Will Farrell was born at Tweed, Ontario in 1863 and came to Cayley in 1905. In 1914 he married Edith Scragg who had come from Berton-on-Trent, Eng.

She and her mother lived in the house now owned by Babe Hallett and when she and Will were married they rented the house and moved to Pincher Creek where they farmed for several years.

They returned to Cayley and Mrs. Farrell boarded many of the Cayley school teachers over the years and in the early days the cowboys, especially the Rod McLeay boys, ate at her home when they had trailed cattle to the Cayley stockyards.

Mrs. Farrell took a very active part in all the Church organizations and the Red Cross. She will always be remembered by friends and neighbours as a very kindly and humorous lady.

Mr. Farrell died in 1938 and Mrs. Farrell on August 6, 1957.

Alexander Watson (Sandy) Durham

Sandy might be called the Pied Piper of Cayley. In the summer evenings he marched down around the village streets playing his pipes, or down the road or railway track. Behind him would follow boys and girls of assorted sizes and possibly a dog or two. As he passed his friends homes he played their favorite melodies.

Alexander Watson Durham was born near Bannockburn, Scotland in 1883. As a young man he served his apprenticeship in the blacksmithing and carriage trades. He played the bagpipes with the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders and in 1906 was awarded a silver medal for his piping.

Sandy Durham, 1946

In 1907 he came to Canada and worked at the grain elevators in Fort William and at various other jobs in the prairie provinces. He filed on a homestead in Saskatchewan but abandoned it. In 1909 he came to Cayley and opened a general blacksmithing business and fitted happily into the community. He sang Scottish songs at the local concerts, played his pipes, recited or did Scottish dances. He was always ready with his pipes or harp for special occasions such as Burns Night gatherings or St. Andrews suppers. He took part in many highland dancing and piping competitions in Calgary and elsewhere. He also gave highland dancing lessons to some of the children of the community. He was a big man with a neatly trimmed moustache and an erect bearing. He was a most impressive figure in his kilts.

In 1915 he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and served overseas as Farrier Sergeant with the 1st Field Company and 1st Battallion Canadian Engineers. After the armistice he served for a time with the Army of Occupation in Germany. He returned to Cayley in 1919 and resumed his blacksmithing.

He was an active and loyal member of the Presbyterian Church and sang in the choir for many years. When there was no choir he led the singing. He was widely read and was very interested in astronomy. One of his prized possessions was a telescope through which he viewed the heavens. He was also interested in astrology and sometimes attempted to cast horoscopes. He wrote poetry and composed bagpipe music. He was also interested in the affairs of the community and served for a time on the Village Council. His many sterling qualities included a fair amount of independence and thrift.

For many years he lived upstairs in the McDonald Block. When the block caught fire Sandy was not caught unprepared. He rushed to his room in the burning building, tied his bagpipes to a stout rope and carefully lowered them from the window. His own safety was secondary.

During the second war he served as a piper in the 13th Company Veteran's Guard of Canada. Following his discharge, granted for reasons of health, he lived quietly in his little house in Cayley. He was a charter member of the Nanton branch of the Canadian Legion. He had never married but found companionship and interest in his music, his books, his friends and his church.

He still enjoyed competitions and took part in a piping competition not too long before he died. The most flavorful competition he ever entered was the pie-eating contest at a Community Club fund-raising do. The chocolate pie, topped with whipped cream had to be eaten while the hands were tied behind the back. It was a messy game but Sandy gobbled pie with abandon and came out the winner!

When Arthur Houlden of Peterborough, Ontario, was making a tour and visit to all the Orange Lodges in Canada, he and his family happened to be holidaying with the George Houldens on the 12th of July, 1946. Art was feeling pretty sad to

think there wasn't a celebration anywhere in Alberta that he could attend that day. George, knowing that Sandy was an Orangeman, asked him to come down and visit with Art. Sandy came in his kilt and all his regalia including the bagpipes. He marched up and down the lawn playing all the old familiar twelfth of July songs, making a happy afternoon for them both. Russ Zelmer of High River was working at the Wheat Pool elevator that day and he came across the road to enjoy Sandy too.

Shortly before the first war the Methodist Church published a book of favorite quotations. Sandy's was "I like a rooster fer tew things. First the crow that is in him; second the spurs that aire on him tew back up the crow with."

He passed away in 1949. He was placing a post in his garden when he suffered a fatal heart attack. The funeral service held in the Cayley Presbyterian Church was most impressive. The casket was draped with the Union Jack and fellow members of the Legion marched in a body to the church. Rev. John Kennedy of High River officiated at the service and Mrs. Kennedy sang "The End of the Road", accompanied by Mrs. H.D. Johnson. Pipers Noble and Russell in full regalia played "Lord Lovat's Lament" as the casket was carried from the church, and also piped the procession to the cemetery. Sandy Durham was the first veteran laid in the Field of Honor in the Cayley Cemetery.

Sandy Durham would have been an outstanding citizen of any community, and Cayley is proud to have been able to claim him as their own.

NOTE: We are indebted to the Nanton News for much of the above, written by "H.D.J."

The Lament for the Bursted Bag

by A.W. (Sandy) Durham

The world aroond seems dull and drear,
Whirling in Stygian gloom, accursed,
For me, there's not one ray of cheer.
My bagpipe's bursted.

The rain comes drizzling doon the spout,
Wae's me, this is na' harvest weather,
Puir fermers: hoo will they make oot?
I've burst ma Blather.

The Bar U's shipping oot the-day
While sodden Stots* wi' rain are reekin,
An' bawlin in a dolefu' way,
My Pipe-bag's leakin.

Nae mair: whan evenin comes aroond,
Will neighbour's weans* in cheery banter,
Shout oot wi' glee, whan fa's the soond.
O' Drone and Chanter.

What though ma Warld is dull the-day,
A'hint the clouds the Sun is shining,
An' Pipe-bags ne'er will come ma way.
Just by repining.

"Despondency" The deevil's mill,
That grinds awa oor health and siller*,
I'd cowp ye fairly wi' a "gill"
An'droon the "Miller".

Noo; I maun up an' work awa,
Tae buy a Bag baith tight and tidy,
Sae if ye'r Passin gae's a ca'
I'm at the Smiddy.

*(Stots-steers, weans-children, siller-money).

The Bank

Cayley's first bank, the Bank of Hamilton, was opened in the McDonald Block. Robert S. Knox was the first manager. A new bank was built on the corner directly opposite the CPR Station in 1911. T.E. Maley was another bank manager. Irvin Beisegel was an early teller. In 1917 Max Morrison became Manager. Alex Snowden, Dolly McPhael, Charleton Wickens and George Shields were on the staff during his years in the bank.

In 1924 the Bank of Hamilton was taken over by the Canadian Bank of Commerce. R.B. Robinson was the new Manager with C.W. McCrea and Justin Deane-Freeman on the staff. Olive Wickens was also employed at the bank. In 1932 the bank closed down. It was re-opened as a service station and was burned in 1941.

John W. Bradley

Mr. Bradley came with his parents from Muskoka, Ontario and settled near Calgary. In 1898 he and his brother Levi decided to learn the harness making trade and apprenticed with Hutchings and Riley. He came to High River in 1901 and started a harness business, Levi joining with him the following year. The Bradley store was known all across the country and still is. Levi's son, Louis is the owner.

In 1910 John Bradley came to Cayley and openeda harness shop in the building that was later the John Hicklin house. He stayed at Cayley for three years and then moved with his family to Carstairs.

His wife was the former Margaret McLean. She had worked for Mrs. Robertson at the High River station. They had three sons and two daughters. The oldest son, Norman decided to be a lawyer in his later years and graduated at the age of fifty eight. He passed away just six months after graduation. William lives at Burlington, Ontario, Lillian (Mrs. Sid Johnson) at Aldersyde, Gordon is at Sundre and Agnes, (Mrs. Hay) lives at Armstrong, B.C.

Mr. Bradley died in 1962 and his wife in 1919.

Andrew Meyers

Andrew Meyers was born in Sweden in 1878 and came to the United States when he was a young man. He was married to Minnie Gustofoson at Trade Lake, Wisconsin. They moved to Port Arthur, Ontario where my dad started a saw mill. This mill burned down completely, and they lost everything. Dad then went back to the U.S. and settled in Spokane, Washington and followed his trade as a Steam Engineer. About 1910 dad moved to Cayley, Alberta where he bought land and started a repair shop. Later on in years he bought land on the east side of the

tracks and built two houses. For several years he was the janitor of the Cayley school. He passed away in 1938 and is buried in the Cayley cemetery.

(Now this is something that is pretty hard to believe). I received a letter from dad when I was in the Hawaiian Islands saying that he had my future wife picked out for me. Truer words were never spoken because I married this same girl, Ethel Vance in 1916.

We have four children, one boy and three girls; Helen, George, Avis and Geraldine.

Fred J. Meyers

Jack McDonald

Cayley's second Scottish blacksmith, "Scotty" McDonald came to Cayley prior to the first war. He was hearty jovial and kind and had an uncanny knack of remembering which ploughshares belonged to which customer. A farmer would come in with his ploughshares and throw them on the floor. No name would be written or identification marked on them, but when the farmer came back for his shares Scotty would invariably pick the right ones. He knew how to handle his public too, and kept his customers in good humor by handing on bits of news that he picked up from time to time.

While Scotty and Sandy Durham were rivals in business, they were good friends at the same time. Scotty's education had not been too extensive and he found writing letters a bit difficult, so he would get Sandy to help him write to his girlfriend in Scotland. Rumor has it that Sandy used to add romantic bits which were not dictated. But he must have made a good job of it, for Scotty eventually sold his business and went back home to marry his sweetheart.

Bill Cameron

Bill Cameron, another of Cayley's blacksmiths bought Jack McDonald's shop. He was born in Owen Sound, Ontario and had a blacksmith shop in Winnipeg. He used to play rummy at Bill and Ed Brewster's. He died in 1941.

Kwong Lung

Kwong Lung came from the Canton area of China to Vancouver in 1905 and to Cayley about 1911 where he opened a store, cafe and bakery. A few years later Kwong's bride, a little lady who wore silk pyjama costumes and tiny blue earrings, arrived from China.

Five brown-eyed babies arrived in due time. All the children grew up and attended school in Cayley. Frank is now proprietor of a grocery store in Calgary. Alec is associated with a vegetable firm in Vancouver. Rose is Mrs. David Ho Lem of Calgary, Esther is Mrs. Victor Mah of Edmonton, and Lillian is Mrs. Eric Jim of Edmonton.

All the Lung children took part in sports and were excellent skaters. Frank played clarinet in the Cayley Band for a number of years. Both boys served in the army during the last war.

Chew Kang (Little Joe) who was Mrs. Lung's brother, came out from China about the beginning of the first war to manage the confectionery and cafe which operated in connection with the grocery store. His son Wah You came later and attended school in Cayley.

Little Joe was everybody's friend. The little boys of the town used to make a

bee-line through the store back to Joe's kitchen where they received a warm welcome - and a piece of pie for pumping water to fill the big water-barrel.

As well as apple and mince, Joe baked "lubob, laizy and blubelly" pie. Some of the young bucks used to get great sport out of snitching pies from Joe, believing, of course, that Joe had no inkling where his pies had gone. Some weeks after one pie-snitching episode Joe stopped the culprits in their tracks by asking "Boys - You bling back my pie plates, eh?"

Teasing Joe was a game for the big kids, and Joe would tease back good-naturedly, but if his patience wore through he would grab the curved banana knife and disperse his tormenters as fast as they could get through the door. He chased one young rascal across the street and right into the pond by the railway track, where, in his panic, he fell flat on his face!

The whole community was aroused at the times when drunken rowdies beat-up on Joe. He was a pathetic figure on his way to Court with his head swathed in bandages.

Kwong had his own problems and keeping a step-ladder was one of them.Someone was always borrowing his ladder and not returning it, so he bought another new one and painted on it "This Ladder Stolen From Kwong Lung".

One fellow remembers how, twenty years or so ago, he and a young accomplice plotted to 'lift' a couple packages of cigarettes from Kwong's store. The accomplice was to engage Kwong in some transaction at the front of the store while the first fellow would use a long ruler with a pin stuck in the end of it to reach across the counter to the cigarette shelves. But he failed to pay attention to Mrs. Lung sitting quietly knitting back by the stove. By the time the young fellow reached home his Mother had already been notified. It was a chastened boy who retraced his steps to the store and returned the cigarettes. But Kwong was an understanding man, and the lecture he gave the boy paved the way for a lasting friendship between them.

Charging up groceries for lengthy periods was the usual custom and many people, harassed by hard times, ran up bills they found impossible to pay. When Kwong sold out in 1946 he wrote thousands of dollars off his books. The store was purchased by Mr. Tannas of Rockyford and the Lung family moved to Calgary.

Kwong passed away in 1952. Mrs. Lung, now past eighty, still resides in Calgary. Little Joe died during the 1940's, while still at the store at Cayley. His son, Wah You, returned to China.

Sports Days

The annual Sports Day was held on the 24th of May. Horse racing, bucking, ball games, foot races were all included. There were no chutes for rodeo events in those days. The broncs were snubbed up, blindfolded, saddled and mounted. The blind-fold was jerked away, the horse let go and no one blew the whistle at the end of eight seconds! The broncs were ridden over the badger holes until they quit bucking.

One year they turned a greased pig loose. He weighed about one hundred pounds and was smeared with black axle grease from the tip of his snout to where his tail used to be. The tail had been cut off so no one could use it for a handle. Whoever caught the pig could keep him. About fifteen or twenty young fellows took off after the pig, and it was one mad scramble. It was George Walker who brought home the bacon, but what a sight his best white shirt was! There was as much black axle grease on George as there was on the pig.

Part of the sports day crowd (about 1912). Crate holding greased pig in foreground.

Oliver Grant

Oliver Grant worked in the general store for his uncle F.F. MacDonald. He was very good at athletics and travelled to sports meets with Charlie Phillips. When the two friends practised together Ollie usually won, but when they entered competitions Charlie came first and Ollie second.

Cayley Band

With the arrival of the Wicken's brothers, George and Jack, and a nephew, Joe Armstrong, all former bandsmen from Tupperville, Ontario, it was not long until an orchestra was formed in the Cayley district, playing whenever they got a chance; at dances, concerts and sports days. Mrs. Fairy Walker was also one of the enthusiastic members.

Cayley Community Band 1933

In 1908 they formed the first Cayley Band with George Wickens as Bandmaster. In 1933 the Cayley Band was again organized with George Wickens again wielding the baton, and most of the young boys and men of the district playing in it. Few of these had had previous training, but they learned fast and soon were playing for concerts and parades. I recall one Sport's Day parade in Nanton in 1934. The

boys had practised faithfully and well, and had perfected a counter march as an added attraction. The drum majors were two small boys, still too small to play an instrument, and they performed excellently: only they misjudged the distance needed to turn in front of a row of benches, so the band played and marched over them as if they had not been there.

The band performed many times at the Calgary Stampede Parade, and following one of their performances there, they were approached to join the Clyde Beatty circus as its official band. They were sorry to have to turn down this offer, but too many were farmers, and could not take time off.

Cayley Band - 1939. Front row, left to right: George Houlden, Hugh Eaglesham, Leta Arnold, George Wickens, Jean Murdoch, Edna Beaton, H. Chaffee, K. Cummihg. Second row, left to right: Ab Arnold, A. Robblee, Len Beaton, Del Thompson, S. Robblee, T. Gilchrist, Morley Scobie. Third row, left to right: John Houlden, G. Cameron, I. McNamee. G. Poile, Merv Edey, L. Arnold. Banner Bearers, left to right: Stan Kirk and George Murdoch.

For various reasons during the forties, the band got smaller. We lost several members to the Services in World War II and there were times when they joined with the Stavely band to form a larger unit, to fulfil their various engagements.

George Wickens retired and left Cayley in 1947 and George Houlden took over the reins until it was disbanded in 1954 due to lack of members.

This comment was taken from the papers following a Calgary Stampede Parade: "An especially good hand was given the flourishing Cayley Band, directed by George Houlden. This group of players attracted very favorable comments of admiration and amazement that such a fine musical agregation could be assembled from a small village."

Margaret Wickens

Hay Wire

Taken from: Pioneer Tales by H.B. Adshead.

Jolly baled hay wire, trusty old friend,
How many a break you have helped me to mend,
How many a sleigh tongue you've helped me to splice,
Or a split in my axe handle fixed in a trice,
Should a link in my chain perchance break in two
A piece of baled hay wire would make one anew;
Or if any old harness should sever in twain,
A stitch of baled hay wire would join it again;
Or if from my sheepskin the buttons should sever,
And let in the blasts of the cold winter weather,
A small piece of wire would the damage repair
And shut out the chill of the cold winter air.
Or should my old pipe be unwilling to smoke,
A poke from the hay wire would clear out the choke;
Or if from my wagon wheel rolled off the tire,
T'was quickly made fast by a piece of hay wire.
So jolly old hay wire, trusty old friend,
I ne'er will forget how you helped me to mend.

Asa and T. B. Leonard

Asa's father and his Uncle Truman (T.B.) Leonard both homesteaded north of the Little Bow. About 1915 Asa purchased land five miles north-east of Cayley. He was married and had two children, and built a very nice bungalow on the farm. A few years later T.B. Leonard took over the place, and Asa and his family moved away. The bungalow stood empty for many years until it was moved to Elbert Couey's farm and remodelled.

"T.B." retired to California where he lived well past the 100 year mark. The Leonard quarter is now the property of Jim Street.

Bill Sutermeister

Bill Sutermeister left the Swiss Border Patrol in 1916 on a two year leave of absence for America. He harvested in Illinois and in Brock, Sask. and after a 60 below zero winter he decided to come to sunny Alberta so came to Cayley in time for seeding in 1917 and worked for Mr. W. Eaglesham, which time Mr. and Mrs. Eaglesham were like a father and mother to him.

Being interested in church work he left here for Bow Island to take on some Missionary work in five different schoolhouses. Two years later he returned to Cayley and worked for Jack Wickens and stayed with Fred Scragg, later he rented Mr. A. Robblees farm. He was Superintendent of the Sunday School for quite some time and helped with the Tuxis Boys Club, on a few occasions he took the services in the Cayley Church. He also played the violin in the orchestra.

In 1926 Bill took over the Massey Harris Agency in Gleichen where he was Mayor for three terms. Here he met his wife, the former Mildred Miljour, who was a school teacher there. They have two daughters and are now retired and living in Calgary.

Bob Sutermeister

Bob Sutermeister came to Cayley when he was only sixteen. His brother Bill and Jack Wickens met him in Calgary and drove back at the beginning of the terrible three-day snowstorm of May, 1919. After those three days he was ready to go back to Switzerland. However, he stayed on and worked for Jack Wickens and several other farmers in the district including his brother, and unloaded cars of coal for the elevators.

He later moved to Penhold and then to Red Deer where he was an Insurance Salesman for several years and at one time was top salesman for his district. After moving to Red Deer he changed his name to Suiter. He and his wife, the former Mary Turner, have recently moved from Kelowna to Abbotsford, B.C. They have a daughter Frances living in Calgary and a son Paul in Hollywood where he is accompanist for rehearsals for the movie stars there.

Joe Roland

Mr. Roland farmed the Butler ranch north east of Cayley and later worked for the farmers during the harvest season. Joe enjoyed working on machinery and the farmers biggest trouble was keeping Joe from taking the machinery apart at noon hour.

When his health failed he moved to Edmonton and died there. His brother took his remains back to the States for burial.

Mert and Clara Ingle

Mert Ingle, his wife Clara and two sons, Lionel and Leslie, arrived in Cayley from Lebanon, Oregon in the late fall of 1916. They farmed in the district south east of Cayley until 1942 when they and their son Lionel (Link), and his family returned to Oregon.

Link's wife was the former Hilma Carlberg. Their son Ronald and daughter Betty were born here and attended school in Cayley. Leslie (Les) and his wife (Margaret Elves) and daughter Anne live in Lethbridge.

Les Ingle

David and Annie Halliday

Dave Halliday was born in Ontario in 1880 - coming to Thigh Hill to homestead in 1900. In 1904 he married Annie May Campbell of Cayley, coming to Cayley to live in 1916. Their home was just half a mile south of Cayley. Their daughter Norma recalls that they built a shed first, then the barn, drilled a well and then built a house, one of the most attractive in the district (present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Grant Cameron). Mrs. Halliday was a sister of Gordon Campbell and Mrs. Garfield Sloane.

There were two children, Norma, Mrs. Frank Allen of Victoria and Jean, Mrs. Donald Joyce of Victoria.

Mrs. Halliday suffered a stroke after a tonsillectomy and the family moved to the milder climate of Victoria in 1923. She died in 1940 and Dave died in 1952.

Oscar Carlberg

Oscar and Olina Carlberg and family came from Oregon to Cayley in April of 1917. Their oldest daughter and husband, Ed Lindberg, and Alfred Carlberg were already farming a place owned by a Mr. Joseph of Idaho. This is now the Leno de Paoli place. The Oscar Carlbergs rented the place across the road, owned then by Chas. Short. The children attended Last Chance school but that first year were so excited by the sight of the Rocky Mountains they could hardly wait for summer holidays. The family then took a team and wagon and camped in the mountains for a glorious week. Charlie McKenzie was their first teacher at Last Chance, followed by Georgetta Armstrong.

Carlbergs farmed two other places in the district-the "Snow Sears" place for four or five years, then the Jimmie Campbell place for a couple of years. In 1927 they moved back to Portland, Oregon and Mae and Inie stayed in Alberta.

When Mae was asked if she could remember any incident to add to the family history, she said, "well, we were all pretty excited the day my brother Art was shot." Some of the boys were hunting ducks by the lake where Garry Shields lives now when one of the boy's 22 accidently fired, the bullet striking Art just above the hip bone. The boy was so frightened that he ran away and hid and the family searched for hours before finding him hidden in the tall weeds and grass. He soon recovered.

The slough west of Garry Shields home used to be a lake and extended way up to Rasmussen's land at the north end and down into the Coulee by the McPherson place at the south west corner. It was so deep Inie says they used to swim their horses across it.

The Carlberg's had nine children: Agnes (Mrs. Ed Lindberg) Wisconsin, Arthur of Siletz, Ore., Mae (Mrs. Clarence Smith) Nanton, Esther (Mrs. Dean McFarland) Salem, Ore., Luella, married Irwin Learned of Cayley, now Mrs. L. Carlberg of Portland, Ore., having married a man with her own maiden name. Inie, Mrs. Grant of Nanton (formerly Mrs. George Shields), Hilma, (Mrs. Lionel Ingle) Hermiston, Ore., their two children, Ronald and Betty were born at Cayley. Ernest, Toledo, Ore., and Marvel (Mrs. Si Russell) Vernonia, Oregon.

Mr. Carlberg passed away at the age of 87 years and Mrs. Carlberg on February 20, 1965, at the age of 90 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bicknell

The Bicknells farmed the Charlie Short place until 1922. They were such hard working community people, especially for the church and for the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs that they made quite a mark for themselves in a short time.

In 1963 Mr. Bicknell sent the following letter for the I.O.O.F.-Rebekah Golden Anniversary.

"In late 1919 the Cayley I.O.O.F. decided to buy the old school house - a down payment was made - and in early 1920 we started to move it to its present site. I don't remember who was in charge but I remember working with the Brockway brothers, the Chaffee brothers, Wickens brothers, and Max Morrison - also Rev. Irving, Link and Elbert Couey and Frank Davis, but there were many more than that.

1950 – Looking north before curling rink was torn down. Courtesy Hugh Hanson.

I hauled the gravel with four horses and a wagon from the creek bed between Cayley and Nanton. I was in town almost every day and did what I could to help. If you see any dents in the metal ceiling plates they were probably made by me when my hammer missed the nail.

The first dance in our new hall was a "hurried up" affair. We just couldn't wait any longer to use it. I was head of that dance committee and had strict orders to permit no "cheek to cheek" dancing or any other improper stuff that might give our hall or our Order a bad name.

Our family moved to Marshall, Saskatchewan in November of 1922 and lived there until 1956. My wife wrote several plays - one of which was called "Relief" and our local group staged it - it won all the trophies of the Saskatchewan Drama League and we were sent to put it on in Ottawa. The play "Relief" was adjudged the best of the year and our group of actors placed fourth among over thirty entries from all over Canada. Mrs. Bicknell and I played the leading roles and were very proud to have the play published by Macmillans.

My wife passed away in 1956 and I retired to New Westminster, B.C. My son is John Bicknell, B.S.A., B.Ed., M.D., P.H.D., Chief of the Educational Research Division of the State of Minnesota.

My daughter, Mary is a retired civil servant and has written prize winning plays and a book about the early days. She lives in Sacramento, California.

Atcheson Family

The Atcheson family, Mr. & Mrs. Atcheson and their son Campbell came to the Cayley district in 1918.

In 1918 they had the misfortune of having a fire which burned out several of

the farm buildings. The following June Mr. Atcheson built a very large barn, the walls of the barn were painted green and the roof was red and on the front of the barn facing the road which was the McLeod Trail and still is, was a sign which read Mountain View Stock Farm and the brand was 7S. This was a real show place and was written up in all of the farm papers. Mr. Atcheson had show cattle and horses as well as his farm operations, and set up a beautiful farmstead with many lovely trees and shrubs, some of which are still standing to-day, they also had a very large and lovely home. The family occupied this farm until 1937 at which time they moved to Mr. Atcheson's farm near Regina. Mr. Atcheson is now deceased but his widow and his son Campbell and his family are still farming at Regina.

Mabel Coote

Morgan Connell

Morgan Connell was a bachelor who lived in a small house at the Atcheson place. Although the farm changed hands more than once Morg stayed on in the little house. It was said that whenever the place was sold Morg went with it.

His chief revenue was from the sale of cedar posts which he had shipped into the district from British Columbia. He died about 1960.

W.J. Young Family

W.J. (Bill) Young came to the southern part of the province from Scotland where he was joined later by his bride. The Young's came to Cayley about 1918 buying the north half of 9-17-28-W4 (the present Greftegreff place), taking their place in the community until leaving for Calgary in the 1930's. Later on they moved to Haney, B.C. where both Mr. and Mrs. Young passed away.

Their daughter, Gladys, made a name for herself in the catering business, and at present operates the Mary G. Hanratty Catering Service in Edmonton. Eileen is Mrs. Walter Hanson of Nanaimo, B.C., Jack is in the Edmonton area.

Chester Lansing

Chester and Clara (Vought) Lansing came to Cayley in the fall of 1917, from Kettle Falls Washington and made their home in the Last Chance district. The five children were: Field Lansing now of North Pine, B.C., Myra, Mrs. Fred Churchill, who is a book binder in Spokane, Vernon, of North Pine, B.C., Francis, Mr. Sterling Smith, a librarian in Spokane, Leonard, deceased.

Their early friends and neighbors included the Carlbergs, Rasmusens, Crawfords, McLarens and Hoggs.

They left in 1924, going to Spokane.

William Kelly

William Kelly came to the Cayley district in 1917 and worked for Robert Houlden for that summer and the summer of 1918.

His home was in the Peace River country near Spirit River. His mother and his sister and her husband lived there on homestead land. When Bill came out of that

country he built a raft and floated down the Peace River to where the Little Smoky River joined the Peace. There they would push the raft to shore and after getting their luggage on shore they just let the raft drift down the river. The railroad was in from there to Edmonton.

Kelly liked good horses and enjoyed driving a four horse team my Dad owned. He had driven horses on the CPR demonstration farm at Lethbridge before coming here.

He worked for the fire department of Vancouver City the winter of 1917 but returned to the farm in the spring of 1918. That fall he joined the Lord Strathcona Horse in Calgary. He married Ethel Bartenhagen. He was killed a few years later when acting as brakeman on a train in Pennsylvania. Bill was a member of the Cayley I.O.O.F. Lodge.

G. Houlden

"Home Ties"

A home-talent play was staged in Cayley many years ago. It was called "Home Ties" and was directed by Miss Evans. Max Morrison, George Wickens, Mrs. B. Widdup, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bicknell were all in the cast. Elbert Couey was the colored boy, Charlie Phillips the leading man. A teacher named Ruth was the leading lady, but Charlie says she was a little gun-shy and wouldn't let him get close enough to do justice to the romantic parts. Nevertheless repeat performances were given to standing-room-only crowds in High River and Nanton.

Musical Memories

For several years Cayley had an orchestra and a male quartet which were very popular and much in demand both at home and the surrounding towns for concerts.

The quartet consisted of Ted Cumming, first tenor, Jack Wickens, second tenor, George Wickens, baritone and Rev. S. Irving bass. Fred Scragg was pianist for the orchestra. Eva Eaglesham (now Mrs. Ted Cumming) and Bill Suitermeister played violins, Jack and George Wickens and Bill Moreland the trumpets. Mrs. Fairy Walker played the guitar and Mrs. Jimmy Brown played the drums.

Not many people at that time owned cars so transportation was sometimes a problem, so one evening Bill Moreland took a load of orchestra players to Nanton down the railway track on the hand car. If anyone has ever tried to sit on a hand car with a violin case he will know that it is not the most comfortable mode of travel, but their contribution to the concert was much appreciated.

When Mr. Irving left Cayley and Ted Cumming moved farther from Cayley the quartet broke up and shortly afterwards the orchestra also disbanded.

Dan Kellar discovered one morning that eight head of horses belonging to a neighbor had broken into his wheat field and had been there all night. The neighbor had been letting the horses run loose and an argument over damages ensued. A committee of neighboring farmers was called in to assess the damage done to the grain and they named $25.00 as a reasonable amount. The owner of the horses still refused to pay.

"I'll tell you what we can do then", said Dan. "I'll put eight head of my horses in your wheat tonight and we'll call it square."

The $25.00 was paid without further argument.

Cayley about 1920

Sam Bagley

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Bagley with their son Dennis and daughter Doris lived in the Cayley district for a number of years. For a time they lived in town and Sam served a term on the Village Council. They left Cayley for Vancouver in the 1930's.

George Palmer

The George Palmer family farmed the George Coote place during the 1920's. About 1930 the family moved to Sylvan Lake. Mr. Palmer died at Sylvan and Mrs. Palmer moved to Vancouver. Irvin, the eldest son now farms the home place. Helen lives in New York. Gordon "Brussie" was the youngest.

Dennis Palmer, who came from Rutland, England, was a nephew of Mr. Palmer's. He worked at Bakers, Browns and Wilkinsons later moving to Peace River where he enlisted in the services during World War Two. Dennis returned and is living in the Peace River country.

Perry Humphrey

Perry Humphrey farmed the quarter now belonging to Mrs. Alec Fraser for quite a number of years, breaking it up in 1911. The land was originally the homestead of one of the Broderick brothers.

Edward Sneller

The Ed Sneller family farmed what had been George Robertsons homestead west of town for a number of years. In 1931 they moved to a farm in the Macleod district.

Oscar Olson

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Olson farmed just west of Squaw Coulee. Mrs. Ohlson was a daughter of Willard Brockway. They had one daughter, Edna, who made her home with her grandparents after the death of her mother. Oscar, who served with the U.S. forces in the last war, now resides at Rochester, N.Y.

U.F.A. and U.F.W.A.

The Cayley branch of the United Farmers of Alberta and its auxilliary the United Farm Women of Alberta comprised almost the entire farm population of the district. Members worked toward the betterment of farm economics and rural life. Many wonderful community suppers and social evenings were sponsored by the Cayley organization, and many fine speakers were brought to the district. The organization was disbanded following the defeat of the U.F.A. provincial government in 1935.

Settin' Hens

Long before hatcheries ever were known,
'Twas the farmer's wife's task to hatch the chickens at home;
So early each spring about April or May,
When those faithful old biddies had ceased for to lay,

In the evening at sundown with a basket of eggs
To the barnyard she'd trudge on her work-weary legs.
And filling the boxes with straw for a nest,
She would put in the eggs and hope for the best.

Then into the henhouse like a trouper she'd go
And yank those old cluckers from their hests in a row.
Then the squaking and flapping, oh what a din!
When the hens started cackling and the roosters chimed in.

But undaunted in spite of the scratches and pecks,
She would carry them out by their legs and their necks.
Then on to her nest each biddy would land
Protesting and scratching and pecking her hand;

Then she'd go off to bed all weary and worn,
To dream of what she'd buy when her chickens were grown.
Then early next morning she'd be up with the sun
And out to the henhouse she'd go on the run.

She would cautiously open the door just a jot
To see if those hens were sitting or not;
Oh yes! Those old biddies are setting alright,
But not on the nests where she set them last night.

There's two on one nest and one on the floor
And two of them are setting close to the door.
After waiting three weeks and the chicks start to hatch
Mrs. Housewife may find she has quite a small batch.

Then when everything seems to be going alright
A couple of hens get into a fight,
When the best one has won and the battle is o'er
Dead chickens are lying all over the floor;

So those pioneer women with courage unmatched,
Learned to count not their chickens before they are hatched.
I would just like to say e'er I lay down my pen
That there's nothing so ornery as an old settin' hen!

Eva Cummings

Chautauqua

Opportunities for entertainment of any cultural value were very scarce in the early days, so the advance agents for Chautauqua found ready acceptance. Cayley, High River and Nanton agreed to a combined sponsorship of the week-long sessions to alternate each summer between the three centres. A guarantee of

$2500.00 was necessary, which Cayley and Nanton found a bit heavy after High River reneged on the agreement.

Chautauqua week was a wonderful break in the years more ordinary activities. Families from all over the community purchased season tickets and were on hand at the big tent for all seven programs of lectures, music, entertainment, and services on Sunday. There were special programs for children too.

The financial strain proved too heavy and Chautauqua was held only three years, but those who attended remember it still.

Gordon Cameron History

In 1920, my Uncle, Edward Elves and his family, had to go to the Coast on account of the health of their son, Clifford, so my mother and her family came with me to Cayley from Whitetail, Montana, to work the farm for him while they were away.

After working the farm for two years, my mother and family went back to Montana where my father ran the lumber yard, and I purchased a half section of land two miles north of Cayley from Mr. Keebler and began farming in earnest. After buying the machinery, ten head of horses, harness, three cows, two calves and the household effects, including a crib and high chair (for which I had no immediate use) but came in the total price of $1,000.00. I batched there for four years.

Finding a gravel pit on the farm, I hauled numerous loads of gravel with a four-horse team drawing two wagons, into Cayley and gravelled the main street. Ernie Latham and I hauled water from Mr. N.D. Scott's farm, lots of times in 40 below zero weather, to make a skating rink in Cayley. We hauled a couple of bins into town from the farm for dressing rooms. Although we didn't make a great deal of money, the rink was popular and many enjoyable evenings were spent with carnivals, hockey games and lots and lots of skating.

In 1926 Beatrice Beaton and I were married and we had two children, Norene (Mrs. Trevor Hopkins of Lacombe), they have three children, Debbie, Gordon and Rhonda, all in school; and Grant, who with his wife and family live just south of Cayley on their farm.

We found farming pretty hard in the thirtie's, when we sold our grain so cheap and beef and pork were in the same category. One time I remember, we had a nice car but we just couldn't buy the licence or gas to run it so we put it up on blocks and used horses for transportation. One harvest I had two outfits in the field ready to cut one of our best looking crops of wheat when we saw a hail storm coming, we hurried our horses to the barn and never went back to cut that crop. The hail cleaned it right out.

Our friends and neighbours were in the same boat in those hard years, so we visited each other and shared what we had. As we look back on it all, I believe they were some of the best years of our lives.

Gordon Cameron

Frank Walker, Bob Walker, Archie Walker, Albert Ducommun, Mat Hicks, Angus Scobie, Homer Scobie and Dan Keller were our neighbours.

We sold our farm in 1961 to J. Heron and moved to High River where we had built a new home.

Homer H. Houghton Family

Our family moved from the Okotoks district to my grandfather's (J.E. Houghton's) farm at Cayley in the late part of 1924.

Dad, who was born in Indiana, proved up on a homestead in North Dakota then followed the land rush to Canada and filed on a quarter in the Starline district, east of Claresholm, in 1903. He and my mother, Elizabeth Ferguson of Belfast, Ireland were married in 1907.

In 1909 Water-Right quarters near Cayley were opened for homesteading and Dad filed by proxy on two of them for his father and his brother. At the same time he obtained a "purchased homestead" for himself at Parkland.

He knew there would be a big rush at the Land Titles Office in Calgary so the very early hours of the morning found him waiting at the door. As opening time approached a large crowd of land-seekers gathered behind him. At the appointed hour an NWMP officer opened the door from the inside. There was a great rush from below and Dad was thrown up and over the side of the steps to the ground below. He was determined that no one would rob him of the opportunity for which he had stood and waited for so long, so he rushed and pushed his way up through the crowd and still got in among the first.

Dad played the base horn and was a member of the first band in Claresholm, also of the High River band in both early and later years. He also played with the band from the Elementary Flying Training School at High River during the Second War.

Jimmy, Lance and I attended school in Cayley, driving in a two-wheeled "governess cart" - a vehicle that always embarrassed me a bit. Lance went to school at Braeside for a few years too.

In 1927 Dad purchased a Case Combine which shared honors with Dan Keller's Holt as one of the first combines in the district.

In 1931 Mother and Dad moved to the Blackie district and to High River a few year's later. Dad died there in 1951 and Mother in 1963. Jimmy and Lance reside in Calgary and High River. I, Mrs. Everett Keller, still live in the Cayley district.

Dan and Ella Hume

Dan was born in Sellarsville, Quebec and I was born in Nairn, Scotland. We arrived in Cayley in August, 1925 and were employed by S.E. Elves on the farm 19-25-26-W4. We farmed several farms in the community including W. Caspell, R. Kitchen, George Coutts.

In 1937 we left the district and moved to the oilfields at Turner Valley where we spent many years until retiring to High River. Dan passed away January 7,1965.

Cayley was our home away from home and all the people we knew in those days held a special place in our hearts.

Ella Hume

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hanson

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hanson came to Alberta from North Dakota in 1909. They took out a homestead at Bow Island and farmed in that district till 1925 when they moved to Cayley with their two sons Hugh and Bill and daughter Sybil. They purchased a half section from Archie Walker two miles north of Cayley. They retired to Calgary in 1944, moving later to Vancouver in 1946. Sybil now lives in New Westminister where she operates a beauty parlor.

Bill married a neighbour girl, Lola Chaffee and farms north east of town. They have two daughters, Sherry and Carol. Sherry is Mrs. Don Lyon and has two daughters, Patti and Janice. Carol married Garry Shields and has one daughter, Darcie.

Hugh married Velma Geen, R.N. of Winnipeg and they live on the old home place at Cayley.

Cecil Moncrieff Family

Cecil and Mrs. Moncrieff came to the Cayley district in 1926 from Grenville, Quebec. They purchased a half section of land west of Cayley and added another half-section later on. Forty years later Mr. and Mrs. Moncrieff are still operating their farm.

Their family of nine are - Gerry, Tom, Floyd, Loyd, Audrey (Mrs. Wm Ostrom), Joyce (Mrs. D. Shields), Clayton, Claude (deceased) and Earl.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Moncrieff live in Cayley. Tom and Marge's (Twiss) children are Phillip, Larry and Robert. Earl and his wife Shiela (Haynes) also live in Cayley and they have one son, Monty.

Mr. and Mrs. W.N. Holmes

Bill Holmes came to Cayley about 1927 to a farm just west of Cecil Moncrieff's. He and Miss Frances Redding were married in 1930. Mrs. Holmes was a member of the Cayley W.I. She passed away in 1947. Mr. Holmes moved from the district a short time later.

The Dirty Thirties

The financial depression of the 1930's hit Cayley as it did all communities. Wheat sold for eighteen and nineteen cents a bushel, cattle in many instances failed to bring enough returns to pay for the trucking to Calgary. Eggs brought three to five cents a dozen. Mortgages were foreclosed, grain and machinery was seized until the Provincial Government's moratorium on debts was inacted.

Cash deals were replaced by barter. Garage bills were paid with eggs and cream. Wives took over hair-cutting to save barber shop costs - but that made life

more difficult for the barbers - and on it went. Instead of buying flour farmers took wheat to the mills that opened up in Nanton and High River and traded it for flour, shorts, bran and porridge meal. The mills accepted extra wheat to pay for the milling. Coal was hauled from mines between Vulcan and Champion, and from mines on the Indian Reserve near Arrowwood. Tractor gas was hauled in barrels from Turner Valley. Many cars were put up on blocks and people went back to transportation by horse and buggy. Others drove their cars around the community without license-plates. If a trip to Calgary were necessary they borrowed plates from someone who had them!

The freights came through from the north with possibly seventy or eighty unemployed men on top of the cars, in them or under them. The next day the train would come back from the south carrying just as many wandering men. Sometimes a freight would be pulled off on the "Y" and the men would have to wait for another freight. They "jungled-up" down by the stockyards and cooked the eggs or vegetables, which they got at Norman Stephenson's or some other nearby house, in tin pails over a camp fire. In the fall they took sheaves from the fields to make beds in the freight cars. Often they slept in Stephenson's barn. None of the towns wanted the unemployed men around and often they were told they could get a job at the Bar U or some other distant ranch. They would walk out the twenty or so miles only to find that there was no work, and then trudge the long miles back. Farmers and ranchers along the road gave meals to many of these men. But, as someone lately remarked, with all those transients on the move without work or money, there was very little stealing or law-breaking. Toward the end of the 30's boys as young as sixteen were riding the freights, some of them to see the country as much as to look for work.

To ease the situation the Dominion Government offered five dollars a month to any farmer who would take a man to work, and offered the man five dollars for his personal expenses. "Prosperity Certificates" issued by the Social Credit Government were paid to people in this area, chiefly for work on the roads. These were traded in at Kwong Lung's for groceries, or at any store which agreed to accept them.

Even the weather refused to co-operate in the 'Thirties. A succession of dry years cut crop yields and the relentless winds changed summer-fallow fields into black clouds of drifting soil. The good top-soil piled up along the fence rows and dust sifted into every nook of people's houses. Dishes in the cupboards became black and gritty and patterns on linoleum floors were completely obscured. At that time farmers still ploughed their land each year and had not yet learned to "cover-crop". At any rate the dry summers would have made it almost impossible to germinate seed for a cover crop although this area did not suffer from drought to nearly the extent that areas further east and south did.

"Dirt Colic" was another result of the drought. Dust sifted onto the stubble fields and horses pasturing on the short grass and stubble took a great deal of dirt into their stomachs which eventually caused inflamation. Many farmers lost work horses from this complication.

Morale was kept up by simple pleasures. Bean suppers were held by the church each week at twenty five cents per plate, and dances and card parties were held at the hall for twenty five cents admission.

The outbreak of war in 1939 brought an end to the Depression. The men from the freight trains joined the army. Grain and cattle prices rose as money that had not been available for peace was found to fight the war.

People freely discuss the general aspects of the Depression but few wish, even thirty-some years later, to speak of their own personal trials at that time. The wounds of the Depression are deep.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Arnold

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Arnold came to the Cayley district in 1930 and for the first years farmed the Gordon Campbell place. They had homesteaded at Strongfield, Saskatchewan in 1905, and Mr. Arnold had managed an implement agency at Strongfield for several years. In 1916 they moved back to their old home at Trehune, Manitoba and shortly after came to Lethbridge. Mr. Arnold worked for several years as a carpenter at Radner west of Calgary.

Mrs. Arnold was the daughter of a pioneer family of Manitoba. Her family often talked of the dangers they had experienced during the Riel Rebellion.

There were seven children in the Arnold family. The three daughters, Florence, Marion and Ethel remained in the Lethbridge district. Of the four sons, Gordon lives in High River, Harvey, lives in Lacombe. Albert still resides in the Cayley district. Leighton resides at Grande Prairie.

Mr. Arnold was janitor of the Cayley school for a number of years. He passed away in 1952 and Mrs. Arnold in 1965.

Gordon Arnold

Gordon who married Marion Moncrieff has been a faithful member of the Pekisko Kids. The fact that he lived on Pekisko Creek (Buford Alwood place) when the band was organized was responsible for the name "Pekisko Kids". Gordon and his family live in High River.

Harvey Arnolds

Harvey married Marguerite Schnelle. During the war they lived in High River where Harvey was employed at the Elementary Flying Training School, and played in the EFTS band. He had also been a member of the Cayley band.

When they later moved into Cayley they purchased the house from Elbert Couey's farm and moved it into town, and Marguerite resumed teaching at the Cayley school. They have a daughter Marilyn and a son Barry. Harvey and Marguerite now reside in Lacombe.

Albert and Leta Arnold

"Ab", whose name is practically synonymous with toe-tapping music has cheerfully spent many nights playing his guitar to keep people happy and dancing. He followed Doug Stevenson as leader of the Pekisko Kids.

Ab and Leta took over the Clifford Chaffee farm when Leta's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chaffee moved to Salem, Oregon. Both have given their time unstintingly to many community endeavors, high in importance being Ab's coaching of junior hockey teams. Cayley had not had a skating rink in recent years, but Ab made the added effort and took his boys to practise on Nanton ice. And he not only taught hockey, but good sportmanship as well.

Their son, Jimmie, married Janice Johnston from Nanton. They reside in Cayley. Their daughter, Alberta, (Mrs. Kenneth Rueger) lives in Calgary.

Layton Arnolds

Layton, youngest of the Arnold boys, served in the airforce during the war. He married Velma Jewell of Nanton and farmed for several years in the Cayley district. They now reside, with their sons, Ross and Kenneth at Grande Prairie where Layton is employed with the Department of Veteran's Affairs.

Charlie Pinkie

Charlie Pinkie came from Kitchener, Ontario and worked for Cayley and High River farmers most of his life. He spent the remaining years of his life in the Twilight Home at High River.

William and Sadie Christie

Mr. and Mrs. Christie were married at Dundalk, Ontario, February 25th, 1914. They came West to Steveville, Alberta, where Mr. Christie had homesteaded. Their three children were born at Steveville. Irma, Jack and Bernice.

Because of drought conditions they left the homestead in 1923 and came to Cayley for a year while Mr. Christie built a house on the farm of his Uncle, Nichol Scott, one mile west of Cayley.

When the house was completed, they moved to the Gladys Ridge District and farmed there until 1937 when they returned to Cayley and bought the Scott farm where their son Jack still resides.

Jack married Helen Brinton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Brinton who was C.P.R. Agent at Cayley. Jack and Helen have four children. Bernice was married to Mervyn Edey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Edey of Cayley. They have three children and live on the Stampede Ranch in the Longview District. Irma who is a school teacher, was married to Maurice Ardiel, son of Dr. and Mrs. Ardiel of Okotoks and they have three children.

Mr. Christie passed away in 1960 and Mrs. Christie now resides in the village of Cayley.

Mrs. Christie received a Citation and Badge of Service from the Red Cross in 1965 for her years of service.

Roy Charles Henderson

Roy Charles Henderson, who left his 30 acre Island home in Shediac, New Brunswick as a young man came west on a cent-a-mile excursion in 1918. With a few cents in his pocket and a will to work, he was determined to one day stand on a prairie landscape and looking far as the eye could see to be able to say, "This land is mine." His ambition was fulfilled and now 45 years later, although he has sold all but seven sections of the 22½ section holdings he once owned, his greatest pleasure is still to leave his town home in High River and travel out to one of his farms to head the farming operations. During his worker's lunch hour, he might wheel a load of cattle 30 miles north into the Calgary stock yards, stop at his MacLeod Trail car lot and help one of the salesmen cinch a deal, then

return to work until late into the night. For come springtime and harvest the land calls him and he is out working on the soil which he loves.

The stories of his trading and trucking are legend, big people like him, little people envy him, and it is typical of his nature that he pays little heed to most of the rumours which circulate. However, he does say a little ruefully, "Once in awhile there's a little truth in some of those stories, but just like a clean baseball on a muddy field, they sure gather dirt." But there are many who freely admit that they got their first start from Roy Henderson, used his machinery, borrowed his horses, drove his cars, and had their first plane trip in his private plane. It is typical also of the man that he shrugs off his good neighbourliness, and the fact that seldom does any of the machinery he lends come back in working condition, as part of being a neighbour.

Roy's first job when he came west was one picked up on the streets of Calgary where thousands of men were walking around looking for jobs after the first World War. He happened to hear a farmer say he needed a hand, and where a lot of the men didn't want to go so far from the city, any job looked good to him. The farmer was Frank Dwelle from east of Nanton, and three years later with 6 horses and some used machinery, and a half section of rented land at Parkland, Roy Henderson was on his way. In 1928 when he lost his home by fire, he took his 12 horses into the Crows Nest lumber camp and worked for the winter. In the spring of 1929 with his winter stake he went into the horse trading and selling business. There was a heavy demand in his native New Brunswick and other Maritimes for horses and in all he shipped 50 carloads of horses down east in the 30's. In his farming operations he used as many as 18 horses in one outfit.

In 1939 he moved from the Parkland to the Cayley district, and with many farmers selling land on account of the wartime labor shortage, Roy just worked a lot harder and bought more and more land. In 1951 he bought the 6¼ section of the Bar U and went into cattle, adding to this holding, the Fox ranch and Parslow & Denoon. At one time he had 1500 head, and one long winter fed 1200 at different locations of 400 in each place. He took over 100,000 bushels of grain on tractor, truck and car deals at Nanton at his Palomino garage and then fed the grain to his cattle, as a medium of exchange.

In 1944 he took up flying at the High River flying Club earning his private pilot's license at Penhold. He built his own private landing strip on his home farm and every Sunday the place was crowded with people waiting for a ride which he willingly gave. He still has his plane and about the only time its needed repairs is when it has been lent out to someone else. From 1927 he threshed grain and was the first person in the district to have eight rubber tired bundle wagons painted green with eight big heavy matched teams of Percherons. In 1957 he went into straight combining and put away his threshing machines after 30 years. When springtime and harvest came to his land Roy Henderson was a dozen men in one, cropping 5,000 acres a year, he pulled two fourteen foot drills together, bought the first self propelled combine in 1941 for $2800 which today would be worth $11,000. Photographers from eastern papers travelled west to take pictures of his five combines in action in one field, and he was featured as the typical western farmer in picture story of the European Common Market.

He said he really went out of hog raising in 1935 when he took twelve sows to market shipping them from Nanton to Calgary and then found he owed $2 for shipping charges over and above what he received for the hogs. In 1952 the boy from the east who had shared a 30 acre home with a family of five, and who had been called land crazy because he had bought up land no-one else wanted, was offered a million dollars for a 21 section set up, by the Hutterite Colony, and he

says with humour that's the closest he ever came to being a millionaire, and he couldn't at any time asset his holdings because of course being a true trader what he owns today, he will probably sell or barter tomorrow.

He liked the old western law when a handshake or a deal written up on an old brown paper bag or such like was binding, he can't feel that the Hutterites are land grabbers because they are farmers and he has always found them good neighbours, and good farmers. In his town home, you might find an Eden Valley Indian Chief, a Hutterite leader, or an Eastern dignitary, they are all welcome, and Roy maintains he doesn't always talk trucking and trading, and if he does most of the time, well that's how the west began, and it still looks the best place in Canada to him. If he had six sons his ambition would be to make them into six farmers and preferably in the Cayley district, and looking at Roy in late from the harvest field, one might ponder as to the irony of nature which didn't give him six sons which is about what it would take to keep up to such a man of the soil.

Margaret Henderson

Pekisko Kids

When Doug Stevenson sang "Leave Those Dishes in the Sink Maw" or "Pass the Biscuits Mirandy", Babe Hallett leaned even further backward and pulled his accordion even wider and then when Ab Arnold's smile grew more relaxed, then the Pekisko Kids were really swinging - and so were the dancers!

They started playing first in one another's homes just for the fun of it, and in the fall of 1946 began playing together. Their first engagement was at Pekisko Hall (Fosk-Springdale) so they decided to call themselves The Pekisko Kids. The six original players were Doug Stevenson, Shorty Hanson, Ab and Gordon Arnold, Babe Hallett and Verne Shantz. Morley Scobie and Dick Dayment joined six months later. When Doug moved away Ben Buchard and Fred Norton came in.

Original members of Pekisko Kids. L to R Doug Stevenson, Gordon Arnold, Morley Scobie, Babe Hallet, Shorty Hanson, Ab Arnold.

The boys cut a wide swath over the years playing for more than 400 dances over a twenty year period. Often they played for as many as three dances a week and the territory they covered was terrific. They played at Calgary, and north of Calgary, south to Lethbridge, east to Reid Hill and Queenstown, and west to Radium Hot Springs - and dozens of places in between. They weren't mercenary. If a dance was of a benefit nature - or the wedding or anniversary of someone they knew - or some special event in their own community - the boys supplied music for free. As Babe said, "Money made little difference to us. We loved to make music and be one of the party".

As well as at Pekisko Hall they played at Cayley, High River, Nanton, Meadowbank, East Longview, Longview, Black Diamond, Royalties, Parkland, Stavely, Brant, Blackie, Willow Creek, Gladys Ridge, the Stampeder Hotel in Calgary, and at other centres as well. Rodeo dances were a specialty and so were barn dances which included the A7 Ranche, the OH, Buster Monkman's, Kentucky, Stampede and de Paoli Ranches.

Ab, Dick and Ben kept the jewellers in High River in business supplying them with picks for their instruments, and Babe went through three accordions - one

being pulled apart at one of the early dances at Pekisko.

The band members wore western suits and cowboy hats, but no sequins or splash of any kind, for they were never show-offs. There was nothing artificial about them - they were genuine.

The Pekisko Kids are unique in more ways than one - but one stands out especially. They are probably the only semi-professional dance band who play only by ear. They never used or needed a sheet of music and couldn't have read it if they'd had it. The Little Brown Jug in the corner was the only music they needed. At first they had a problem keeping up with the latest western and dance tunes, but solved it by gathering in the St. George Coffee Shop in High River with enough nickels to play the newest tune over and over on the Wurlitzer until they had it -- note, word and beat. When times became a little more prosperous they bought a portable record player which enabled them to learn and practise the new tunes in their homes. Frequently someone would request a new number at a dance. If Ab could whistle it a bit, he'd say "Yeh - I know the one you mean - We'll fool around with it and may be we'll be able to play it yet tonight". And sure enough they would. Everyone who ever danced to the Pekisko Kids remembers how the music would stop and Ab would say "That was purty good. We'll have another spasm", and away they'd go again.

Doug Stevenson was the first leader. He was a lanky young fellow from Saskatchewan with a friendly grin and a drawl that reminded one of the mountains of Tennessee. When Doug left, Ab became the leader.

In all the years of playing it would be hard to pick one night that was a greater triumph than the rest - unless perhaps it was the time that someone tried to add injury to insult by nabbing the Pekisko's own public address system and placing it at the disposal of an imported band at a High River carnival - and at the same time banishing the Kids to the old Town Hall to make music for any overflow crowd, while the imports played for the main carnival. The way it turned out the whole crowd overflowed to the Town Hall and the imported musicians played to a handful of dancers.

The only humiliating experience they ever had was in the 1950's when they were invited to play for a teen-dance at Western Canada High School in Calgary, and were to alternate numbers with a Calgary dance band. When the Calgary musicians swung into their groovy rythms the floor was crowded with jiving teenagers. But when the Pekisko Kids came on with their western brand of music those dumb city kids just stood and looked. Not one couple ventured on the floor. The boys felt it a crushing snub, but enthusiastic country crowds soon restored their morale.

Often they talked of packing it up, for those late nights were hard to take when they had to work the next day - but someone or something always persuaded them to keep going.

When rodeo and stampede time rolls around each summer the Pekisko Kids prepare a comic western float for the parade circuit. They have a big collection of ribbons, prizes and trophies as evidence of their success in this line of endeavor. Some of the ideas which they have worked into prize-winning floats are "Saturday Night at Guy Weadicks", "The Lost Lemon Mine", "Medicine Tree and Medicine Wagon", "The Little Red School House and the Still on the Hill", "The Cartwrights of the Ponderosa", The Buffalo Jump and Dingman No. 1 Oil Rig. Chris Jensen and his four big greys have an annual contract to pull the Pekisko Kids float. As soon as one stampede is over Ab starts dreaming up ideas for next year's float.

Babe Hallett moved from Cayley in 1966, making a satisfactory band difficult to get together, but all the old originals, including Doug who came from the northern part of the province, and Dick who came from Salt Springs Island, B.C. assembled again to play for Ab's daughter's wedding dance. None of the old touch was lost - in fact their music was just as good to dance to, and even better for listening, than it had been twenty years before!

Others who have played with the Pekisko Kids are Joan Fox and Dan Dale.

Prairie Cattle Drives

Some of the larger ranches, usually the Burns Ranches in this area, used to winter their cattle at straw stacks on the farms, one or two riders were hired to ride herd on the cattle and check the straw stacks each day, these riders boarded with the farmer who was wintering the cattle. These cattle were quite wild and could only be herded by horse. It was not safe to try to walk through a field where these animals were grazing. Some of them would not come into the yard to drink if anyone was in sight on foot. One morning a farmer stepped out the door in a hurry and there stood a Burns cow which had strayed into the yard during the night, she took one look at him stuck up her tail and headed straight across country through four barb wire fences before reaching the rest of the herd.

Many farmers summer their cattle in the foothills. They were trailed to the hills in early summer and back to the farms in the fall, some of these farmers formed an organization called the Willow Creek Cattle Association and hold grazing rights in the forest reserve on the North Fork of Willow Creek and Johnson Creek. At one time there were about 1000 head of cattle strung out along the trail. Moving these cattle involved several riders and the chuck wagon which was pulled by a pair of horses or sometimes four horses if the road was soft. As the roads improved trucks were used. Now in our present time even the horses are trucked one way. A large percentage of the cattle are now moved from winter to summer pasture by the cattleliners. Cattle are no longer trailed into Cayley, but are loaded on the liners right at the ranch and trucked to markets 50 to 100 miles away. We all like this new system as it saves time and is so much easier on the stock.

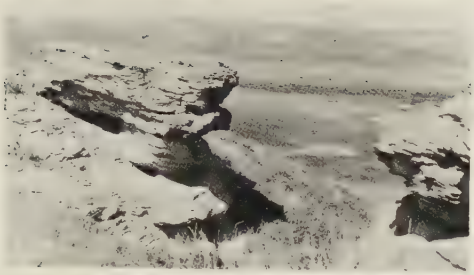
Don Coote

Old Woman's Buffalo Jump

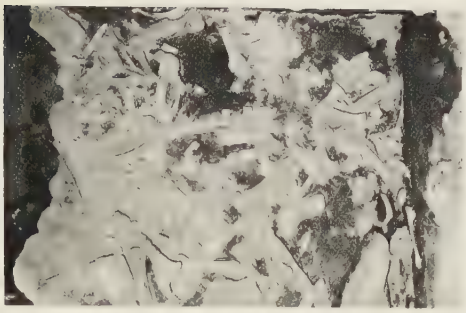
The Wickson children, and probably others, used to pick up many arrow-heads as they walked through Squaw Coulee on their way to Last Chance School - but no one realized the extent or age of the jump until a flash flood tore a big gully from the south wall of the coulee in 1952, revealing layer on layer of buffalo bones, and washing thousands of age-whitened bones into the valley below.

"Wib" Sloane, who rents the land from his brother Alf, was the first to view the spectacle and to realize something of its significance. Many people in the area became interested and took friends and visitors to view the sight. The jump, about four miles north-west of Cayley is on land which at one time was the homestead property of James Campbell - Wib and Alf's grandfather.

News of the find spread, and Don King of High River sent photos of it to Dr. Douglas Leechman of the National Museum at Ottawa. Soon after, Dr. Leechman joined the staff of Glenbow Foundation in Calgary, and through his interest primary tests were undertaken in 1957 and a major excavation of the site in 1958.



View of Squaw Coulee from Old Woman Buffalo Jump showing weathering of rocks. This gap in the rocks was not always there and buffalo were driven off upper ledge. Glenbow Foundation photo.



Bone layer at level 17 ins. Old Woman Buffalo Jump, the last layer in which arrows were recovered. Atlatl points were found in deeper stratas. Glenbow Museum photo.

The project was directed by Dr. Richard Forbis, Glenbow Foundation Archaeologist. Don King, who took charge of the digging was assisted by Dave Quapp of Coaldale and Norman Richards of Pincher Creek. Ken Smith of Red Deer and Norman Ring of High River also worked on the project which was undertaken to discover facts of early Indian life. In 1959 a lower shaft was excavated forty feet further downhill.

Altogether twenty nine stratas were uncovered, most of them very well defined, although varying in thickness. Radio-carbon processing of some of the layers which had been burned, as well as comparison of artifacts with those found at other sites, placed the era in which the jump was used as between the time of Christ - possibly before - to AD 1600 or 1700.

The layers were formed mainly of buffalo bones, with hair and bits of hide in some layers. Hundreds of projectile points of various types, fragments of pottery, stone choppers, scrapers and spear points were unearthed. Each layer was carefully separated from all other layers. Each pailful of earth was sifted through a screen in order that no artifact might be lost. All items recovered were labelled according to the strata in which they were found.

Arrow-heads and other artifacts differed in type from layer to layer. The projectiles found in the lower stratas were much larger, and of a type used on throwing sticks or atlatl - a weapon more ancient than the bow and arrow - and used by Eskimos and other primitive peoples.

The big buffalo drives were usually held in the fall of the year when colder weather would keep the meat from spoiling. Many disappointing days might be spent in locating the herd, and in attempting to maneuvre it into a position to be driven downwind toward the jump. This would be accomplished by hunters running on foot, for it was only in later years that the Indians had horses. Long wings made of rocks, branches and buffalo dung were usually constructed from the cliff spreading as far as two miles out into the prairie to funnel the animals toward the jump. Evidence of these wings has not been found at the Cayley jump, although it is likely they were used.

As the herds were maneuvered into the funnel area, yelling Indians came running from the rear, or jumped up suddenly from behind the dung banks to stampede the terrified animals over the cliff. As they tumbled to the bottom with broken legs and necks, they were set upon by the slaughter-crew below who dispatched them with arrows, knives and clubs.

At least during the latter years of its use, the Cayley jump was the slaughter area of the Blackfeet Indians, and was known to them as "The Old Women's Buffalo Jump" - old referring to jump, not women.

A legend, described by Hugh Dempsey of Glenbow Foundation, tells that the first marriage ceremony took place at the Cayley Jump. At one time the women lived and hunted apart from the men, and had their own killing pound. Napi, the Old Man of many Indian Legends, decided it would be better if the men and women camped together so that the men might hunt and fight while the women cooked the food and tanned the hides. Napi found the women's camp, a large one, near the foothills. Nearby they had a buffalo jump which was the main source of food. This was the Women's Buffalo Jump. He brought his proposal to the leader of the camp. She agreed and asked Napi to bring the men to the camp so that each woman could choose her own husband.

Napi returned to the men with his news, but stole back to the women's camp ahead of the rest so that he might have the most beautiful woman for himself. He was apparently ignored. The other men arrived and the women, including the one which Napi considered the most beautiful, all chose their partners - but no one chose Napi. In anger and humiliation he went to the Buffalo Jump and turned himself into a pine tree. And there he stood for many years.

No tree stands at the site today, but that does not prove that such was always the case.

Other sites have been thought to be the Old Women's Jump, but the name Squaw Coulee points to this ancient jump as the original.

Amateur artifact collectors from far and near frequent the jump and have been rewarded with many rare specimens. The extent of digging, however has detracted from the interesting spectacle that the flash-flood first revealed.

In 1966 approximately eight acres of land was purchased from Alfred Sloane by the Provincial Government for the establishment of an archaeological and historical park to preserve the remains of the ancient jump.

Squaw Coulee

A story of how Squaw Coulee received its name was told to one of High River's first residents, Charles C. Shortt, by George Emerson. Emerson had been a Hudson Bay Company trader before he got into the cattle-driving business, and understood the Indians well. The Indians told him that nearly one hundred Stoney Squaws and children were camped in the big coulee west of here while the men of the tribe were away hunting. A war party of Blackfeet happened along and massacred the whole Stoney camp. The coulee was afterward known as "Squaw Coulee".

Mr. Shortt found human bones lying in the mouth of a little draw opening into Squaw Coulee while looking for stray cattle. He thought it possible that the bones were the remains of the slaughtered Stoney women.

William Boychuck

William Boychuck (Chucker Bill) left his home in Rumania in 1914 when he was sixteen to come to Canada on a cattle boat. Food for the passage was a large loaf of black bread and a big cheese.

He found work with Clifford Chaffee, later with Charlie Gribble. In 1925 he went to work for Ralph Chaffee, and made his home with the Chaffee's for most of

the remainder of his life. He had never learned to read or write and his broken English, which never improved, brought many a smile. Every spring he was excited to hear the first "minnonite (Meadowlark) singing on a post". Some people were "toe-pigeoned-bin". Every phrase ended with "bin". He was a good worker. His chief pastime was cards - any game of cards - and his ability to add and subtract in his head was excellent. When Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Chaffee left the farm he stayed on to work for their son Harvey, and it was in Harvey's car that he suffered a sudden heart attack and died in 1952.

Hiriam Prouty

Hidie and Ermina Prouty worked for Roy Henderson in the years 1944 to 1951. They came to this district from Enchant, and later returned there where Ermina is Post Mistress and Hidie has a gas and oil sales business. During their years here they took part in community activities. Hidie curled and Ermina belonged to the Cayley Women's Institute.

William Foose

A Stavely farmer, Billie Foose purchased land, just north of the village of Cayley in March 1945 from Johnny Elves. With his wife Emma and sons Ted, Jim, Russell, and Raymond they came to make this their home. Another son Bob stayed in Stavely. In 1963 they sold their farm to Gordon Young of Prince Albert, Sask., and retired to live in High River. The family took part in the affairs of the community and were always ready to give assistance or lend a helping hand no matter what the occasion. They were active in the Community Club and were keen curlers. Billie certainly was an enthusiastic 'Ice Maker'.

The sons are all married. Ted, Jim and Russell make their homes in Calgary, Raymond lives in Edmonton and Bob is still in Stavely.

It could be said of the Fooses -- "They were the best of neighbors".

History of Joe Feyrer

Joe and Laura Feyrer came to the Cayley district with the family, Ann, Margaret and Billy the first of March, 1945. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Baker had been unable to have their sale due to a storm, so we moved in with them. Come Sunday the thermometer read 30 below.

We came to Cayley from Brooks by way of Carstairs. The irrigation at Brooks requires lots of labor and the Carstairs district is subject to hail. Joe thought he had found a profitable and rewarding farm here which proved to be true. In February, 1965 we moved to High River but Joe commutes to the farm.

The children finished their High School in Cayley and went on to Universities. Ann has her B.Sc. in Home Ec. from U. of A. and an M.A. in nutrition from U. of Calif. at Berkley. Margaret has B.Sc. in Public Health Nursing from U. of A. Billy (William) has B.Sc. in Engineering from U. of A. and an M.A. in Electrical Engineering from U. of Toronto. Ann works for the Dominion Gov. Dept. of Health and Welfare; Margaret is now Mrs. M.W. Clarke and lives in Calgary. Billy sells electrical research equipment in Ottawa and so far he's not fulfilled either of his five year old ambitions to be a daddy and a "jack-lumber".

Laura Feyrer

The C.L. Alexander Family

In March 1945 Carl and Marion Alexander, with their family of three daughters Yvonne, Jean, Myra and one son Douglas moved to their new home a mile north of the village. This land had been purchased from Roy Henderson.

Carl was a native son of Southern Alberta. His parents the Wm. Alexanders had come from North Dakota to Leavings, (later Granum) in 1904. They had homesteaded east of there, closer to what later became the Barons district. It was there that Carl was born.

Marion was born in Montana and came as a small child to the Bowville district east of Carmangay where her father and grandfather had homesteaded in 1906.

Carl and Marion were married in 1934 and lived on an irrigated farm at Picture Butte for ten years. Their children were all born there. In 1944 they moved to Penhold for one year and then to Cayley in 1945.

The family took an active part in the life of the community. When the Cayley Women's Institute was organized in 1945, Marion became the first President. She has held offices on local, provincial, and national levels. In 1965 she was a delegate to an international convention of the Associated Country Women of the World in Dublin Ireland.

School affairs, church, lodge, 4H were interests of this family. It was once said, by a trucker, that there were more cars in Alexanders yard on a weekend than any other place between Calgary and Montreal.

After finishing school at Cayley the girls attended Business College in Calgary and worked in the city before becoming homemakers.

Yvonne married Jim Evans of Nanton. They have two daughters Brenda and Colleen. They make their home in Calgary. Jean married Austin Aker of Nova Scotia. Their two children are Keith and Carla. They too live in Calgary. Myra's husband Henry Croft is from Nova Scotia also. They live in Cayley. Henry operates a building construction company. They have two children Glenn and Cheryl. Douglas makes his home in Toronto where he works for the United Church of Canada.

Carl passed away very suddenly in January 1964.

Marion continues to make her home on the farm and hopes that she will be able to call Cayley 'Home' for many more years.

Oswald and Deseree Bertoia

Oswald came to Frank, Alberta in 1905 at the age of six and thought this was a pretty wild country as he was almost immediately the witness to the shot-gun murder of two Sicilian men.

His home had been near the town of San Loreazo in Northern Italy, close to the border of Switzerland and Austria. He was of a family of eight with six girls and two boys. They lived on a farm where they raised grapes; also mulberry trees to feed silk worms.

Oswald went back to Italy for the years 1910 to 1914, then returned to Alberta to work in the coal mines at Bellevue. During the 1914-18 war, coal was needed so badly that miners were not permitted to enlist until their call came, (Oswalds call came the day after Armistice was signed). They worked seven days per week during that time and absentees had to answer to the police. His pay rose from $1.50 per day to $7.50 per day during war time.

Deseree (Sarah) came to Frank in 1905 from Liege, Belgium, where her father had been a coal miner. He homesteaded on the east side of the Frank Slide - about half a mile from some of the big rocks that had fallen.

Oswald and Deseree were married in Blairmore in 1920. In 1922 they first came to Cayley, working for Nick Scott on the threshing crew. In 1929 they bought a farm at Sunnyslope but lost it during the tough times following the "crash". In 1933 they rented the Jenkins farm, across the road from Vester Sweet in the Meadowbank area. They moved to the Richard Delehunte place at Cayley in 1941 and to the Albert Ducommun farm in '43 which they purchased in 1951.

They had six daughters: Nella Pollard - Calgary, Olive (Babe) Jacobs - Calgary, Aileen (Pat) Huntington - West Virginia, Joan Swain - Haney, B.C., Neta Andy - Santa Maria, California, Terry - Santa Maria, California.

The Bertoia brand of friendship and warm hospitality made them "Mom" and "Pop" to the entire community. "Pop" has been heard to say - "A home without children is like a garden without flowers - no damn good".

James Alexander (Alex) Nesbit

I was born in Markdale, Ontario, the son of Thomas A. Nesbit. The family came west to Nanton in the spring of 1917 to the Round Mound District where I lived until I went to the southern United States for about ten years. On returning, I married Helen Montgomery, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Marion Montgomery of Nanton, in 1938.

We farmed my dad's place until we bought the farm west of Cayley, the Alex Gilchrist place, in 1946. We farmed there 'til 1959, then sold the farm to Melvin Caspell. We lived in Cayley until 1965, then moved to High River.

We have two daughters: Ida (Mrs. G.D. Cook) living at the coast, and Alix attending school in High River.

Alex Nesbit

Harry Dell

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dell farmed the Hoake place in the 1940's. Their eldest daughter, Georgina, made her home with the Otto Johnson family while attending High School in Cayley.

R. A. Tutte Family

Reg Tutte was born in England and raised in Saskatchewan. He served overseas in World War II, in first the army, and then in the airforce.

Doris Tutte was born in High River. Her father, Albert McWilliams, came to the High River district in 1904, and lived there for the rest of his life.

Reg and Doris were married in Hamilton, Ontario in 1944. After the war, they moved to their farm west of Cayley in 1946. This farm had been bought from the Windiate Estate in 1943. Here sons John and Albert made their appearance.

In 1957 Doris Tutte joined the staff of the Cayley school. Shortly afterwards, they bought the Cayley property of Walter Gorzitiza. They now reside in Cayley but operate the family farm.

4H Clubs - Cayley Sprouts

Dominion 4H Clothing Club Winners 1950. Opal Keller and Norma Stephenson.

Cayley Sprouts on Float:
Back row: Margaret Feyrer, Norma Scobie, Muriel Scobie, Anne Feyrer, Yvonne Alexander. Front row: Ann Carol Johnson, Carol Houlden, Alberta Tiffin.

In 1947 the Canadian Girls Gardening and Clothing Club (later called 4H) was organized at Cayley by Miss Norma Hogge, District Home Economist. "Cayley Sprouts" was the name chosen. The first president was Jean McPherson. The first leader was Mrs. Orville Scobie, with Mrs. Morley Scobie and Mrs. W. Hallett as Assistant Leaders. Charter members were Jean McPherson, Norma Scobie, Margaret Hurst, Ann Feyrer, Opal Keller, Norma Stephenson, Margaret Feyrer, Myra Ibbetson, Muriel Scobie, Carol Houlden, Yvonne Alexander and June Wooden.

The Sprout's first success was achieved almost immediately. The float they entered in the High River Rodeo parade, just a few weeks after organization, won first prize of $50.00. Spring and Fall Achievement Days were delightful events in the community calendar.

An outstanding success came to the club in 1950 when Opal Keller and Norma Stephenson won the Provincial Clothing Championship and then went on to win the Dominion Championship at the Toronto Royal Fair. A big community reception was given the girls on their return.

Excellent Variety Night programs were produced by the Sprouts...and later carried on by the Student's Union.

Mrs. Norman Stephenson, Mrs. C. Alexander, Mrs. J. Freeman, Mrs. D. Pence, and Mrs. Doris Rasmusen were all leaders of the Cayley Sprouts.

4H Grain Club

Under the leadership of Hugh Eaglesham and Ivor McNamee, the Cayley boys joined the 4H family with a Grain Club and a Calf Club. Hugh Eaglesham was presented with a five year Service Award, 1946-1951, for his work in the Grain Club.

1956 4-H Grain Club. Grant Cameron leader at left. From left to right: Sharon Neeland, Stewart Tiffin, Eileen Bruins, Don Pence, Lorne Tiffin, David Craig, Larry Beaton, Charley Craig, George Bruin, Jack Shier, Wayne Lyman, Wally Pence, John Bruin, Marvin Knoch, Michael Husby, Roy Beaton, Norman Bell, Jim Arnold, Lloyd Lyman, Charlie E. Yauch, and Brian Craig.

Cayley 4H Beef Club

4H clubs have become more popular throughout all of Canada in recent years. The most demand in Western Canada has been for Beef Clubs. So with this local interest, a number of families organized the first 4H Beef Club in the district in the fall of 1962 with some thirty one members.

The first Leader was Mr. Gordon Young. Gordon had much previous knowledge of club work while he lived in Prince Albert, Sask. In 1964 Gordon was given an Award for ten years 4H work.

The next year, 1963-64, saw Phillip Schultz win the nomination. Phil became a very capable leader. There were twenty six members.

In 1964-65 Mr. Ed. Noad was the Leader. He did very well and got things done right. Membership was thirty three.

The fourth year, 1965-66, another successful cattleman and farmer, Wilf Longson, was Leader with around forty one members.

In 1966-67 saw the Club so large that we had to form two clubs...Little Bow Club and the Cayley Club.

I have had to rely on our Assistant Leader, Mrs. Wally Starke, who has helped to keep our Club going very well. I hope we have a successful Centennial Year.

Miles Houlden (Leader)

Tom and Eunice Irwin

I came from Manitoba to Cayley in 1947 at the age of seventeen and started working for Herb Shier that fall on a threshing outfit. I went north to Halkirk in 1952 and worked on a farm and while there I married Eunice Baker in 1953.

We came back to Cayley that June and since then have worked for Jack Christie, A. Arnold, Edey Bros., W. Longson, R. Henderson, Peerless Wood and drove a

Tom Irwin

cattle liner for Alex Tetachuck. In November, 1966 we moved into Cayley and I am now driving a transport truck for Bicknell Freighters ' from Calgary to Winnipeg.

Eunice and I have a family of six children: Ricky, Darlene, Mickey, Randy, Cindy, and Kelly.

Bob and Inez Irwin

I came to Cayley from Manitoba in 1954 and worked for several farmers including Ab Arnold on the ranch out west (now Miller Ranch), Pekisko.

In 1955 Inez Jordan and I were married. We spent two years on the E. Keller farm and are now on the Bob Martin farm south of Cayley.

We have three children: Jackie, Gail and Becky.

Bob Irwin

Mr. and Mrs. L. Lendrum

I first passed through Cayley in 1916, travelling side-door pulman immigrant car from Greely, Colorado, headed for Duchess, Alberta. There had been a chinook and the ground was bare - one of those fine days that you find only in Alberta in February. I marvelled at the size and height of the stubble and the black soil of fallow fields.

In the mid-twenties I heard about Cayley from a Duchess girl, Miss Helen Spicer (now Mrs. Roy Blake) who taught school in Cayley.

In 1950 our holdings east of Brooks were purchased by the government for a horticultural station, and my old neighbor, Joe Feyrer, advised me to settle at Cayley as he thought it was tops. I got in touch with Baird and Casey in High River, and Hank Buhr sold me the Hicklin farm and we moved over that fall.

We had some wonderful times those first years and have fond memories of the fine people who were our neighbors - evenings spent arguing with Dick Brockway, or playing cards with Bert and Mrs. Widdup. Community Club activities, curling, the Boxing Day and New Years dances are missed today. The community spirit when we first came to the district was wonderful.

My wife, the former Grace Fleming, is from a pioneer family in Cypress Hills. Our son Lou married a Meadowbank girl, Joyce Jackson, and they live at Medicine Hat. Dale married Norma Stephenson. Dale and family live in Calgary. Gerald married Helen Weed, the daughter of pioneers at Moose Jaw.

My Mother too resided in Cayley for several years before she passed away.

Lou Lendrum

The Greftegreff Family

Kaare and Borghild Greftegreff and family came to Cayley in January, 1953, moving to a farm east of town formerly owned by George Smith. (NW ¼-9-17-28-W4).

They were both born in Norway and came to Canada in 1920's. Prior to moving to Cayley they farmed east of Nanton.

The family consists of Marilyn, R.N., Gladys a secretary in Calgary and Helen taking her Grade 12 at Cayley. Kaare and his daughters have all been members of the Cayley church choir. Borgie is a valued member of the U.C.W.

Peerless Wood Preservers Ltd.

The ranchers and homesteaders fenced their land with willow pickets or green poplar posts. Sometimes the farmers cut and hauled fire-killed pine from the hills. Split cedar posts were brought in from British Columbia for many years, and gave good service. But as the virgin timber was replaced by faster growing and therefore softer wood, the cedars didn't last either. As labor became harder to get and more expensive the farmers needed something more permanent in fencing materials. In the 1950's fence posts pressure treated with creosote came into use, and in spite of very high prices the demand exceeded the supply.

This came to the attention of two young Cayley men, Gary Keller and Gordon Rasmusen, and in 1957 they began thinking of putting in a wood preserving plant for pressure treating fence posts, telephone poles and lumber. The possibilities were investigated and in 1958 Peerless Wood Preservers Ltd was incorporated. Owners and Directors were Gary Keller, Gordon Rasmusen and Gary's father, Everett Keller. The Plant was built the same year on Everett Keller's farm two miles north-east of Cayley. The quarter on which it was located was Dan Keller's original homestead. When the plant was built only a district road passed by the farm, but two years later Number Two Highway was built right by - a stroke of very good fortune.

Instead of black creosote, a newer, cleaner preservative was used called pentachloraphenol (penta), and the first charge of treated posts was drawn steaming from the pressure cylinder in June, 1958. Ed Noad was on hand with his truck to take delivery of the first load and become Peerless Wood's first customer.

Actually, Ed got a pretty special bargain. The boys were so determined that the posts would be well treated that they ran them through the cylinder not once, but three times! The posts were so laden with oil and penta that when Ed began driving them he said the juice splattered in all directions. Laboratory tests revealed that they did contain three times the preservative called for. Those posts should last at least 150 years!

There were many problems connected with launching the new industry - in fact there were times when things looked pretty grim. But the timing was right, the fence posts filled a big need, and the response from farmers and ranchers over a big area was gratifying.

The first timber for treating came from the upper Sheep Creek area, and since then has come from various areas to the west, Crows Nest Pass, Elk Valley in British Columbia, and the Company timber berth west of Millarville. Lodgepole pine is the species used.

Plant employees number about ten on a year-round basis with extra crews at peak periods such as grain bin building time. A larger number of men are employed, directly and indirectly, in timbering and in trucking raw material to the plant.

The first grain bins were built in 1963 and building them in quantity became an annual fall enterprise. Truck boxes, stock feeders and water troughs were also built, and some fibreglass manufacturing was entered into in 1965.

On June 30, 1961 Peerless Wood took delivery of the first truckload of pentachloraphenol released from Dow Chemical's plant at Fort Saskatchewan.

During the last week in 1961 the building which housed the treating cylinder caught fire and burned, but fortunately the cylinder itself was not damaged. A new building was erected to house the cylinder.

There has been tragedy and sadness too. Two serious accidents occurred in 1965 and 1966 - one a fatality.

The much-too-small office which was in use for many years was replaced by a modern office in 1966.

As well as serving the agricultural market, the plant has supplied dealers in various parts of the province and also filled government orders for fence posts, telephone poles and other materials. Peerless Wood is fast becoming an economic asset, not only to Cayley and district, but to many people and businesses in a widening sphere.

Gordon Young Family

On August 23, 1962 Mr. and Mrs. Wm Gordon Young and family arrived at their new home at Cayley from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Their new farm was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Foose.

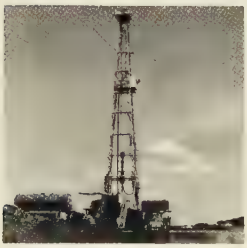
Two of their children, Dorothy and Billy are attending school at Cayley, while Almina, Shiela and Margaret are each working at their chosen professions.

Mrs. Young is nursing at the High River General Hospital. Mr. Young raises Registered Shorthorn cattle and Percheron horses. He has exhibited these horses at the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede and also at the Toronto Royal Winter Fair.

G. Young

Don and Jolayne Swanston

Don came from Saskatchewan to farm with his uncle, J. Street in 1954. He and Jolayne Noble of High River were married in 1960 and have made their home on the Ed Elves farm. Jolayne was a member of the High River teaching staff for a number of years. Their first daughter, Donna Marie was born in 1966. The Swanstons have purchased the J. Street farm in 1967.



Hightower drilling rig at W. McDonagh's in 1967.

Oil Activity

The first oil activity in the area was during the boom of 1914 when wheels and some of the equipment for setting up a rig was hauled to Ralph Chaffee's land, but it never got beyond a stock-selling venture.

In recent years the entire area has been criss-crossed by seismograph outfits and wells have been drilled at Carl Alexanders, Sybil Hansons, and during the past year at Bill McDonagh's. None of these wells are presently producing.

Land Prices

In 1906 Wm Fleet sold land east of Cayley for $19.00 an acre. In 1910 it was selling for $25.00. Bill Brewster paid $55.00 an acre for 800 acres in 1918. In 1950 land was going for $100 an acre but dropped in the agricultural depression which followed. In 1967 land prices are between $100 and $150 an acre.

The Service Family

Floyd and Julia Service moved to Cayley in the early 1940's. Julia later operated the coffee-shop at Alec Tetachuks. Richard, Shirley and Danny all attended school in Cayley. Julia is now Mrs. Ewing of Carmangay. Richard travels for an industrial firm, Shirley resides at Medicine Hat and Danny is with one of the banks in Calgary.

The Dobie Family

Don and Doug Dobie came from Ontario to take over Hap Reaghs service station and repair shop. Doug was single, Don was married and had five children - Donald, Georgina, the twins Gale and Iris, and June. Mr. Dobie, Sr. also joined the family.

Wally and his wife Fern also came to Cayley where Wally worked with Norman and Mervyn Edey. Their boys are Norman, Billy and Jimmy.

Don and Doug sold their shop to Creel Sanders and moved to Calgary. Wally and Fern also moved to Calgary.

Holsteins

The Holstein family moved to Cayley from Leader, Saskatchewan, taking over Kocher's Service Station. The family are Alvin, Alice, Doreen, Nellie and Shirley. The Holsteins moved to Calgary a few years ago where Mr. Holstein (Alec) passed away in 1966. Mrs. Holstein still owns their home in Cayley.

The Heron Family

Mrs. B. Heron came from Scotland to homestead at Coronach, Saskatchewan - then known as Luella. Fifty-two years later she left the homestead to come to Cayley with her son John and daughter, Joyce. The Herons purchased the farm from Walter Mosier - which had previously been owned by Gordon Cameron. Mrs. V. Getten, Mrs. Albert Hogg and Mrs. Gene Trembley (now of Geneva, Switzerland) are all daughters of Mrs. Heron.

Dr. Kohut Family

Dr. D. Kohut of Calgary purchased the L. Lendrum farm, and for a few years he and Mrs. Kohut and sons Gary, Douglas and Brian spent their weekends there. The family are now (in 1967) building a new residence on their Cayley farm. Dr. Kohut will commute to his practise in Calgary.

J. MacLean

Mr. and Mrs. Jack MacLean with Dorothy (Deedee) and Johnny came to Cayley in the 1950's. Mrs. MacLean has nursed in the High River Hospital for several years. Deedee, who teaches school, is now Mrs. Joe Levesque of Strathmore.

Archie Gardner's homestead house. One of the first in the district.

Grown in Cayley District

Back row: L to R: Bessie Beaton, Olive Wickens, Beatrice Beaton, Donald Beaton.
Front row: Alta Beaton, Leonard Beaton, Margaret Carr, Katheryn Gribble, Ada Beaton.

Bob Smith

Bob Smith was the "unknown" man of Cayley - no one knew where he came from. He built a little house just back of the Town Hall and there he sharpened saws, fixed tools or furniture. He loved children and made many toys for the little ones of the district. The children thought so much of him that when he passed away, the Cayley Junior Choir asked to sing at his funeral. No trace of any relatives was ever found.

Frank and Margaret Davis

Frank Edmund Davis was married to Margaret Myrtle Jones in High River on December 28, 1914, and moved to Cayley. Margaret Jones had a ticket to come on the Titanic in April 1912 but cancelled it at the last minute. She left her home in Anglesey, North Wales, and came to Carmangay in 1913. She moved to High River and worked in the Astoria and the St. George Hotel.

Mr. Davis came from Winthrop, Maine, to High River in 1909 where he worked for the McKenzie-Findley Livery Stables. Moving to Cayley in 1914 he worked for the Skov Lumber Co. and the Robinhood Elevator Co.

Their house is still located on Nibloc St. and is owned by their daughter, Ruth, Mrs. Allen Doty. The house was on the main highway and innumerable cars came too fast around the corner, knocking the fence down, hitting the house or rolling in the ditch.

They boarded school teachers for a number of years, some of their names being Baden Powell, Thomas, Hadden and Janie Brown. Mr. Davis was the Cayley policeman for a time. They belonged to the Oddfellows and Rebeccas for a number of years.

In 1934 they moved to the Oscar Olson farm on Squaw Coulee Hill where Mrs. Davis was noted for her beautiful flower gardens. Margaret Davis Died in 1948 and Frank in 1955.

Ruth Doty

James Smith Farrell Family

As I was only five years old when we left Cayley, I'm not in a position to give too much information.

My folks, James Smith Farrell and Maud Farrell went to Cayley in 1915. They had the hotel, and lived there until 1917 when they moved to Blackie.

One of the earliest memories of my life takes me back to August 21, 1915 when I returned to the hotel to find my brother Howard in a crib behind the old kitchen stove. Howard was later killed in action - in June, 1944.

I recall an Indian coming into the hotel one day and asking for "Mook for baby". Also a big fight in the hotel on a day when a big herd of cattle was brought into the stockyards.

Harvey G. Farrell

I remember the townspeople listening to Sandy Durham play the bagpipes as he walked along the railroad track in the evenings, and I remember Mr. McDonald the blacksmith who used to slip us a nickel when we weren't looking, after we had taken him a piece of tin to be made into money.

Mrs. Latham - Mrs. Smith Farrell

I recall as yesterday, the Station agent's little dog which used to chase the train in and out of town - until the day he got too close!

Someone, I don't remember who, brought a badger into town and they let it and somebody's dog fight in the lot between the hotel and the Cafe. The Cafe was run by Kwong Lung and Little Joe. Kwong and Joe kept a flock of pigeons.

It was a big treat in those days to be sent to the butcher shop for meat and to be given a weiner by Mr. Beaton.

Boys being boys, I remember my brother Bill and I and the Beaton Boys being hooked up to an old buggy and having to haul Ernie Latham and Donald Gribble around the prairie to the east of town.

I recall being chased down the alley by Mrs. Annie Latham with a broom, after she caught us throwing eggs against the barn behind the hotel. And we were flying! She threatened to "Cut off your Hass and show it to you" - with the emphasis on the H!

After we moved to Blackie, Jack Cohen, Bob McPherson and some others from Cayley came to visit. Mrs. Latham and my mother tossed Jack in the horse-trough. He took his woollies off and while they were on the clothesline my Dad and Bob McPherson cut horse hair into fine pieces and sprinkled it in his long-johns.

My Father and Mother farmed at Blackie until their deaths - Mother in 1943 and Dad in 1946. My brother Bill now farms at Blackie, my sister Jean (Mrs. Clark Colwell) is deceased. My sister Helen is Mrs. Buddy Westersund of Blackie. I, Harvey, live in Edmonton.

The Steens

Mrs. Steen and her daughters made their home in Cayley during the years of the First War. Betty taught in the Cayley School and Leta at Braemar. Betty organized the first CGIT and taught the girls to tat. Miles of thread were used up in the process but eventually the girls mastered the shuttle and when Christmas came they each had tatted a different colored lace edge on a hankie and hung them separately on the Christmas tree for their teacher.

Mr. Steen, who served in the Medical Corps, lost his life just before the end of the war. He was returning to Canada with sick and disabled veterans on the Landovia Castle when the vessel was torpedoed and sunk.

The family, who made many lasting friendships in Cayley, returned to their former home in Calgary. Betty is now Mrs. Wm Kemp.

And then there was the time the keg of apple cider for the hotel stood on the

Station platform for a few days. When finally delivered the weight of cider wasn't as invoiced, for certain of the high school boys had lain beneath the platform and with a brace and bit had bored through wood and keg, drinking cider to the limit of their capacity. Whether the hole was successfully capped or whether all the cider flowed out is not known.

Max Morrison

I arrived in Cayley on March 5th, 1917 as Manager of the Bank of Hamilton, having been transferred there from Melfort, Sask. At the time of my appointment the position carried the salary of $800.00 per annum, less deductions for Pension Fund. Members of the staff at that time were Alex Snowdon, now President of Seventy Seven Oil Co. Ltd. in Lethbridge, and Charlton Wickens of Cayley.

During the summer of 1917 many prominent and public-spirited people of Cayley promoted the first Chatauqua which was held in the Park grounds just across the railway from Cayley. Many outstanding programmes were presented that could not have been enjoyed in rural communities such as Cayley without the personal guarantees and whole-hearted co-operation of the local citizenry. For several years the locale for these alternated between Cayley and Nanton.

Cayley was for years the main cattle shipping point on the line. In 1919 over 19000 head of cattle were dispatched from Cayley and in the fall of 1919 the CC Ranch Co. Ltd. managed by J.V. Drumheller shipped a train load of cattle to Chicago. At that time there was a premium of 17% on U.S. funds which increased the sale value of the cattle considerably. The following year Mr. Drumheller and R.L. McMillan joined together in shipping about 400 to 500 head of steers to England. At the time of shipment the price in England would have returned about five cents a pound over the Chicago market but by the time the cattle reached England the prices had slumped badly and they were fortunate in netting a gain of about one cent over what they could have taken before shipping.

When I arrived in Cayley in 1917 most of the wheat was hauled in by wagons with four, six or eight horse teams and many of the outfits from west of town had to make one trip a day and take the next day to rest the horses and load up for the next trip to the elevators.

During my residence in Cayley I held the position of Secretary of the I.O.O.F., Secretary of the School Board and after resigning from the Canadian Bank of Commerce with which the Bank of Hamilton was amalgamated in 1924, I was Secretary of the Village of Cayley.. In 1926 I ran as the Liberal Candidate for the High River Constituency against the successful Candidate, Sam Brown of the U.F.A. and Professor W.L. Carlyle, the Conservative Candidate.

In 1917 the business people in Cayley were: Fred Scragg, postmaster, F.F. McDonald, general store, George Wickens, hardware, Kwong Lung, groceries and restaurant, Len Beaton, butcher and shipper, Scotty McDonald, blacksmith, Frank Davis, agent for Skov Lumber Co. Ltd., J.C. Thompson, John Learned, Clark Eyres, Al E. Hobbs, Herb Cronk, the C.P.R. Agent, Joe Hallett, C.P.R. section man, J.L. Beamer, barber and William Caspell, secretary of the Municipal district.

I was married to Lilian Stuart at West Monkton, Ontario in 1919. We had one child, Iris, (now Mrs. W.A. Shields, of Vulcan, Alberta). Mrs. Morrison met with a fatal car accident on October 27th, 1960. In 1945 we acquired the Massey Harris Agency in Vulcan and were joined by our son-in-law and daughter in 1948 and continued in the farm equipment business until March of 1965 when we had an Auction Sale and cleared out our stock.

Max Morrison

Jesse (Jack) Beamer

Came to Alberta in 1910 at the age of sixteen, to join his sister and her husband at Erskine. It was there that he learned to be a barber. He worked at his trade at Halkirk and in Calgary and in 1913 came to High River to work for Mr. Cornfield in his barber shop, (located where the New Look Cafe is now).

In the late fall of '16 Ed Kitchen of Cayley brought all of his threshing crew to town for a clean-up and they needed it after working for weeks around the big old Rumley engine and separator and sleeping in the straw. Ed must have been impressed with the shave, hair-cut and shampoo that Jack gave him because he suggested to George Wickens that Jack be brought to Cayley. And in November of 1916 Jack became the Cayley barber in the north portion of the Wickens Building. Next door south was Wickens Hardware, then Wickens living quarters and then Kervin's store.

In 1915 Jack Beamer married Bessie Hicks of High River. They moved to Cayley in January of '17 to live in the Ed Elves house (when the Elves moved to their farm east of town). They were pleased to rent that house because it had the only good well in town. However, it was necessary to get up very early in the morning to get their own water supply for the day before the neighbors came and pumped the well dry.

Asked if he remembered when they moved to the farm northwest of Cayley, Jack said, "Do I ever!! That was 1919, the driest year I ever saw. Bought the place from Matt Barber of Strathmore. Lansing had been farming it".

Jack and Bessie lived on the farm and raised their family of eight. Jack was practically a permanent fixture on the Last Chance school board - serving as secretary for most of the years until Last Chance was closed in 1939.

In the fall of 1965 the Beamers sold their farm to Mr. and Mrs. Slim Ranger and moved into High River.

Their children are all married. Garnet lives at Burlington, Ontario and has three children. Norma Heppner lives in Calgary also Delmer. Elaine Sparham is in Toronto. Jack married Tillie Hollowaychuck, Matron of High River Hospital, now lives at Chipman, Alberta with their two children. Viola Taggart is in Calgary and has seven children. June married Bill McDonagh of Cayley and has three daughters. Fred is in the R.C.A.F.. and is at present at Portage La Prairie.

George B. Cameron Family

The first glimpse that Mrs. G.B. Cameron, Florence, Francis and Archie had of Cayley was in 1915 when they came from Montana to attend the Golden Anniversary of Mrs. Cameron's mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. David Elves. In 1920 Mrs. Cameron and several children of the family arrived to live on the Ed. Elves farm with her son, Gordon. They lived here for the next two years before returning to Whitetail, Montana.

In 1930 Mr. and Mrs. Cameron and family again arrived in Cayley to rejoin their son, Gordon, who had a farm just north of town. Mr. Cameron came as man-

Top row: Gordon, Dave, Archie. Second row: Frances, Florence, Marie, Peggi. First row: Mrs. Cameron, Edna, Reynold and Mr. Cameron.

ager of the Skov Lumber Company here. It was in the late thirties that this business was moved to High River and Mr. Cameron then went into the poultry and hatchery business. In 1942 he sold out and moved to Salem, Oregon, where several of his married children resided, leaving three married children in Alberta. Gordon and Francis (Mrs. Don Beaton) in Cayley and Edna (Mrs. Dave Schissler in Stavely.

Cayley Red Cross

One of the early organizations formed in Cayley was the Canadian Red Cross Society. It was in 1914 that Mrs. Bert Widdup as President, Mrs. Fairy Walker as Vice-President, Mrs. G. Wickens as Secretary and Mrs. L. Beaton as Treasurer that the executive committee of this group was formed. Knitting, sewing, making bandages and dressings, binders and numerous quilts were made and sent to Calgary headquarters. Several of the farm ladies who were unable to attend the quilting bees for years gathered in their homes. Many quilts were turned in by the late Mrs. Arthur LePatourel, the late Mrs. J. Henderson and Mrs. Fred Edey. (Mrs. Edey in 1966 is still one of the faithful members of the present Red Cross Quilters Group).

As the first president recollects, in the days when the organization first started sales were held, farmers donated calves, pigs, chickens, colts, machinery, etc. and dinners, suppers and evenings of local talent, plays, concerts, were held and the money collected was donated to the Red Cross.

The soldiers would march from High River to Cayley and here they would enjoy a hot dinner before the march back. When the young men returned from overseas a celebration was held with the late Honorable R.B. Bennett of Calgary present as guest speaker. Odette deForas sang and Mrs. Walker played the cornet. Four returned soldiers were presented with watches. Five young men of the district lost their lives in the first war.

Cayley Red Cross had a total of 140 members in 1918 and had raised well over $3000. On the 29th day of October 1939, just after the start of the second World War the Cayley Red Cross received its official Canadian Red Cross Society Charter. In 1951, Mrs. George Curran registered a junior Red Cross Society in the Cayley public school and this group have each year helped with donations of numerous health kits, and are still a progressing group.

The Cayley Red Cross Society gradually diminished in size and isn't the active group it was, but in 1966 it is still performing the duties each year of making the annual canvass for funds and each Wednesday afternoon of the late fall, winter and early spring months a small group meet and make quilts for Calgary Headquarters and do their bit for the organization formed here so many years ago.

In February, 1965 these members were presented with a Citation and Badge of Service. Mrs. Wm. Christie, Mrs. Len Beaton, Sr., Mrs. Fred Edey, Mrs. Ted Cumming, Mrs. George Houlden, Mrs. D.S. Beaton, Mrs. J. Feyrer, Mrs. N. Edey, Mrs. L. Beaton. Mr. Beaton Sr. and Mr. Norman Stephenson were also honored for the many years they had collected for the Red Cross.

Cayley News Items, 1916.

(Taken from Nanton News)

The U.F.A. sponsored a Red Cross Drive for funds and collected about $155.00 and had to take over three halls to hold the crowd, two for dancing and one for entertainment. (March 30th edition).

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Eldon Palmer is having his homestead broken up with a gasoline engine. (Thought to be the first gas engine around) (April 27th edition).

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At the Nanton Fair of July 27th Miss Gladys Couey won numerous prizes in the embroidery section.

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The U.F.A. held their first exhibition and fair on September 6th. The names of Keller, Eaglesham, Scobie, Wickens, Couey and Sloane were prominent among the prize winners.

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The November 20th edition lists car prices as follows: Chassis - $450.00, Runabout - $475.00 and Touring - $495.00--F.O.B. Ontario.

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Christmas candies were from 25¢ to $1.00 a lb; boxes of chocolates were from 40¢ to 85¢ and stationery at 25¢ to $2.00 a box.

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July 12th edition, 1917.

Chautauqua was held at Cayley.

Influenza

In 1918 the 'flu' struck. The October 24th issue of the Nanton News reported "a few cases of influenza but no occasion for panic". The October 31st issue told of meetings cancelled because of flu. November 7th issue carried the news of "thousands of people throughout the province being nursed at home. The Provincial Health Department was sending out instructions regarding care of the sick. December 5th issue reported "Situation not improving, some people getting it the second time".

All possible precautions were taken and it became mandatory for everyone in public to wear a gauze mask over mouth and nose. But in spite of the precautions whole families were victims of the epidemic, although Cayley did not have the fatalities common in many communities. Rev. McWilliam's remedy "Grippura" which he brought from Ontario is credited with saving the lives of several who were dangerously ill.

Armistice

By telegraph, by telephone and by neighbor telling neighbor, word spread on November 11, 1918 that the war was over! Joy reigned and in spite of the flu epidemic which was at its height people came to town from all over the district.

All afternoon wood was hauled and heaped in a great pile just north of the Post Office where Schnelle's garage had stood. At night the big fire was lit and a hastily made effigy of the Kaiser was first shot then hoisted on top of the burning fire.

The crowd sang "Pack Up Your Troubles", "Rule Brittania", "Smile a While" and all those other songs of the First War. But mingled with the joy and relief that the war was over was the sad remembrance of the boys who would never come back.

Honor Roll

Cayley and District – 1914 - 1918.

A.W. Durham	Canadian Engineers.		
J.C. Cohen	137th	Battalion	
H.E. Turner	"	"	
C.J. Latham	"	"	
J.H. Bray	"	"	
D.D. Micks	"	"	*
A.W. Grant	"	"	
P.V. Burns	"	"	
J. Thompson	"	"	
T. Richardson	"	"	
F.D. Coote	56th	"	*
T. Jones	89th	"	
W. Douglas	113th	"	
D.K. Vennie	191st	"	*
V.E.N. Smith	191st	"	
G.H. Lunn	196th	"	
A. McIlvride	21st	"	
W.D. McIlvride	248th	"	
R.E. Caspell	13th	C.M.R.*	
C. Douglas		C.A.M.C.	
C. Backman		C.F.A.	
O. McConkey		C.F.A.	
W. Barker		C.A.S.C.	
F. Barker		C.A.S.C.	
S. Barker	1st	D.R.A.	
W.W. Robertson	1st	D.R.A.*	
L. Wickson	1st	D.R.A.	
R..McDonagh		L.S.H.	
C. McIlvride		L.S.H.	
C.G. Wickens		L.S.H.	
W. Kelly		L.S.H.	
E. Couey		R.A.F.	
O.W. Grant		R.A.F.	

*Indicates those who gave their lives for their country

The Shields Family

George Shield's father, John A. Shields came from Peterborough, Ontario and received the patent to his homestead north of Sheep Creek in 1888. He raised some oats and to sell them had to haul them all the way to Macleod by team and wagon.

The first marriage ceremony performed in the St. Lukes Presbyterian Church in Okotoks united John Shields and Elizabeth McLeod. From this union there were four children, all of which became well known in the Cayley district.

Clarence and John later made their homes at Grand Prairie. Both are deceased.

Bessie (Mrs. George Bourque) became a school teacher and taught for a time at the Braeside school. Her home is in Edmonton and the Bourques have two daughters.

George Shields served in the 1914-1918 war, then came to Cayley. Along with two partners, Jack Cone (who married Helen Wickson of Cayley) and Jack Thompson (who married Dorothy Barker of Cayley) he operated a grocery store - first in a building next to Beaton's Butcher Shop and then for a short time in the old MacDonald Block. He next was employed by the Bank of Hamilton at Vulcan and then at Cayley. Later he purchased the Cayley Post Office.

His first wife was Edith Moreland of Nanton and they had two boys, Bob and Bill. The Shields were divorced, the Post Office was sold to C.W. McCrea and George and his sons went to live on a farm two miles west of town. He had bought this land earlier from Theodore Carlberg. Here he married Inez Carlberg and they had four children; Georgie, Douglas, Dean and Garry.

In 1943 George passed away. Inez remained on the farm to raise her family as well as Bob and Bill. These two older boys both served overseas in the Army in the second great War.

Bob is now a Customs Inspector at Guelph, Ontario and has six children, all boys. Bill died in a motorcycle accident in 1955.

Georgie, (Mrs. Alvin McWilliams) lives at Nanton. They have nine children.

Douglas is a steam engineer at a Wood Preserving Plant at Cochrane. They have six children.

Dean lost his leg in the motorcycle accident in 1955. He was a newspaper worker and later a fiction writer..He died in a car accident at Cayley in 1964.

Garry bought the Shields farm from his mother, married Carol Hanson of Cayley and they have one child, Darcie Lynn.

Lola Hanson

C. W. McCrea Family

"Mac" arrived in Cayley in September, 1924 as Teller-Accountant for the Canadian Bank of Commerce and worked here until 1927 when he was posted to the Edmonton branch. He resigned from the bank in May, 1928 to take over the Post Office, Telephone Exchange, Rural Mail Routes and Machine business from George M. Shields at Cayley. He was appointed Postmaster in 1928 and still holds this position.

Employees acting as assistants in the Post Office and Telephone Exchange in past years were Jack Boyd, Eileen Walker, Edith Parker, Goldie Brinton, Alice Morris and Dorothy Myers.

He has acted as Secretary-Treasurer for Mosquito Creek School District, Cayley Board of Trade, Cayley Lodge I.O.O.F., Cayley Curling Club and Rink and the Village of Cayley. He was on the Village Council for a number of years and was elected Mayor in 1944 but resigned in 1945 to become the Secretary-Treasurer

of the Village when Mr. Fred Roy moved to High River. He has been a member of the I.O.O.F. Lodge for thirty eight years, having filled all the chairs of the Lodge and acted as D.D.G. M.M. in 1938 and 1939.

About 1930 Mac and H.B. Robinson were instrumental in having the natural gas installed in the Village, Mac having the responsibility of having a petition signed by the residents for gas service. Mac drove one of the first School Van Routes and drove this for twenty four years.

In April, 1934 he and Alta Beaton were married and they have two daughters; Verone (Mrs. Lloyd Caspell) who was a nurse, and Linda, teaching at Blackie. They have one grandchild, Shauna Caspell.

H. B. Robinson Family

Mr. Robinson succeeded Mr. Max Morrison in the Bank as Manager in 1924. Both Mr. Robinson and his wife Dell took an active part in the community until the bank was closed in 1932 when they were transferred to Onoway where they remained until he retired from the bank. They moved to Clyde, Alberta where he opened a printing business.

Mrs. Robinson was choir leader in Cayley for a number of years, and also an interested and capable leader of the CGIT. Robbie is remembered for the beautiful flowers which he grew. They had four daughters, Margaret, who died in infancy in Stavely, Dorothy, Marion and Helen, all of whom are married.

Mrs. Robinson died in 1961 and Robbie in 1963.

E. E. Reagh's

E.E. "Hap" Reagh, who had travelled from the Annapolis Valley in Nova Scotia to Alberta via a harvest excursion, came to Cayley in 1925 to work in the Cayley Garage which had just been purchased by Watson & McKay. One of his first duties was driving the "van", actually an old touring car, used to transport the Braeside pupils into Cayley School. Among the passengers were Rea Howard, Ralph Brown, Pete, Mike and Hannah Holoboff and Edith Bradley.

In 1926 Hap and Sybil Sorkilmo were married and moved into a suite in the McDonald Block. They left to work in Blackie, Blairmore and Macleod, but returned in 1933. For several years Hap operated the garage where he had first been employed, then began a garage business on the old bank corner. This business was later sold to Don and Wally Dobie, and is now owned by Creel Sanders. The Reaghs moved to High River in 1948.

Hap is a veteran of both wars, having served with the 10th Seige Battery from Halifax during the first war, and in the second war with the RCASC Patrol Company of Calgary.

Norma Reagh, now with the Canadian Embassy in Tehran, worked for a number of years at the office of the Canadian High Commission in London. Frances, Mrs. Jack Colpitts, resides in England, Shirley, Mrs. M. Hoyme, in Calgary and Betty, Mrs. Frank Morton, in Denver.

Alec Tetachuk

No one knows the problems of operating a trucking business through the Depression Years better than Alec Tetachuk. He started trucking in the Swalwell

district and came from there to Cayley in 1929. His first job, landed the day he arrived, was hauling wheat for Albert Ducommun to the Bawlff elevator at two cents a bushel. He had a Reo Speedwagon with a grain box capacity of 125 bushels. That was a big truck in those days.

In 1930 he went on a gravel-haul at New Dayton. The work lasted three months and the total cheque after board had been deducted was $62.75. He returned to Cayley but there was no work that winter and the finance company repossessed his truck the next spring.

He worked for Jim Baker that summer and by fall had another truck - a 1929 Chev with an eighty bushel box. His trucking competition was Joe Rowland with a Godfordson truck, Dalt Sayers, and Everett Keller for a couple of years.

In 1931 Alec hauled an 850 pound cow to Calgary for Jim Henderson. The trucking rate was 35 cents a hundredweight - but as the cow brought only $1.72 that was all he got. Henderson of course got nothing.

During the dry years the Saskatchewan government bought feed from Alberta and Alec loaded five cars of oats for Emmanuel Randle, destined for Saskatchewan. The oats were shovelled by hand from the bins to the truck and from the truck to the cars. For this and for the six-mile haul he was paid one and a half cents a bushel.

One of Alex Tetachuck's cattleliners.

He heard that George Moncrieff had wheat to haul so he went to see him about the job. "Do you play poker?" Moncrieff enquired. When the answer was in the negative, George said "Then I'll give my business to Keller. He plays and I'll get my money back!"

During the cold winter of 1936 R.L. MacMillan, who was feeding five hundred head of steers, brought in eight carloads of ground corn from Argentina. Alec got the job of hauling it as well as twelve carloads of barley and thirty-five cars of baled hay, so he hired Walter McClintock for $1.50 a day to help shovel grain - and snow! There was no block-heater and no antifreeze, and no truck heater either, so the bitter cold was hard on both truck and men. They made two trips a day starting out at four in the morning and getting back to Cayley about eleven at night. The roads were blocked with snow and they drove more of the twelve miles through fields than on the road. Albert Crowe used to see the truck-lights coming across the fields at night and he'd have the coffee-pot on. It was surely appreciated. At the going rates of that time Alec would have something over seven hundred dollars coming for the hauling, but when he was finished the job "RL" gave him a cheque for twelve hundred.

Alec hauled many loads of gasoline from Oilmont, Montana and raw naphtha from Turner Valley. He made two trips a week to Montana and hauled fifteen drums to the load. He paid six and a half cents per U.S. gallon and sold it to the Cayley farmers for five dollars a drum. Gross profit for the four hundred mile round trip worked out to about forty dollars - or ten cents a mile - out of which he still had to pay expenses. The Turner Valley naphtha cost eight cents a gallon and was delivered to the farmers at $3.50 per 45 gallon drum.

Alec moved both Hutterite colonies in to the CC and MacMillan ranches and did the trucking for the colonies until they got trucks of their own. The MacMillan

Colony had 135 head of work-horses in the first years, Alec says.

In 1937 he took over the service station from Albert Fowler in the old bank building. After it burned in 1941 he operated from the old butcher shop until his present service station was built in 1944 on the highway west of the tracks. During the war years gas rationing coupons had to be collected from customers and turned in before more pump gas could be ordered.

A cafe was built near the service station and was managed first by Mrs. Art Briars. Other cafe operators were Julia Service, Mrs. H. Dickson, Madge Liddell, Reid, Charlie Yee and Sam Gee, and Mrs. H. Bishop. The cafe burned in 1958.

When the School Division was organized Alec began driving a van (actually just a car) and has had a van in operation ever since. He got his first cattliner in 1953 - one of the first in the province. The construction of No 2 Highway east of Cayley meant the loss of the tourist business to Alec's Auto Service, but with cattliners, gravel trucks and farm gas business it is still a busy operation. Louie Ziegler drove for Alec for many years, as did Joe Mythaler.

Alec married Gertrude Keller in 1933. Their sons are Elgin and Max at Squamish, B.C. and Martin of Calgary. His second marriage was to Joyce Dickson, and their son and daughter Carl and Holly attend school in Cayley.

Charles Douglas Holmes

Mr. Holmes married Edna Washburn in 1927. They spent several years in Cayley where he had the Meat Market.

They had two sons; Allen, a Squadron Leader during the war and now residing in Winnipeg and Arnold who is Vice-Principal of the Composite High School in Edmonton.

Mr. Holmes died in 1954 while they were living in Brooks.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Murdoch

Cal Murdock had a unique place in western history before he came to Cayley. He was born in Calgary on October 20, 1888 - the first white boy to be born there. That's why he was named Calgary Alberta Murdoch. His father was George Murdoch, Calgary's first mayor and first magistrate. His birthplace was a house on the corner of what is now Second Street and Seventh Avenue South-East - just across from the present City Hall.

Cal's father drove into Calgary on a wagon pulled by a mule and an ox in 1876 when there was little else than the RNWMP barracks at the junction of the Bow and Elbow. His mother and older brother and sister came on the first train to reach Calgary.

Cal grew up knowing many famous figures such as Pat Burns, Bob Edwards, and Father Lacombe. He and his brothers and sisters attended the first school. Murdock Road was named in his family's honor.

When Cal was seventeen he filed on a homestead near Crossfield which he was permitted to hold for one year until he became eighteen, the eligible age for homesteading. He and Miss Isabel Curley, who came from Prince Edward Island to teach school in Alberta, were married in 1916. In 1930 the Murdoch's with children Jean and George moved from Crossfield to Cayley where Cal took over an implement business. Later they farmed the Robblee and Ed Elves places. Mr. and Mrs.

Murdoch retired to High River in 1961. Their son George lives at Canoe, B.C. Their daughter Jean in Calgary. Mrs. George Murdoch is the former Sadie McDonald of the Brant district.

The Murdoch family are active members of the Alberta Old Timers Association.

The Berriman Family

The Berriman family lived in Cayley during the difficult days of the 1930's. The family were the last to occupy the Crawford house before it was moved to the Wickens farm for remodelling. One of the girls Dorothy passed away, a victim of diabetes, and is buried in the Cayley cemetery.

A. A. Fowler

In the spring of 1933 Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Fowler, their two daughters Helen and Edna and son Gavin moved from Wayne to Cayley where Mr. Fowler opened a Texaco Service Station in the bank building. Mr. and Mrs. Fowler and their son moved to Creston in 1937, but both girls had married Cayley boys.

Helen taught for several years at Braemar School, and married John Houlden in 1936. Edna married Leonard Beaton in 1937.

Edna Beaton

Albert Todd Family

Albert came to Cayley in 1935 from Herschel, Saskatchewan and worked for Mr. Roy Kitchen. In 1944 he went back to Saskatchewan and married Miss Helen Logie.

They returned to the Cayley district and in 1948 purchased a house from Alex Arnold. Albert has been working for Hi-Tower Drilling for the last ten years.

The family consists of three boys and a daughter. Shirley is Mrs. Russell Wallace and lives in the district. The Wallaces have a daughter, Penny Lynne, born August 12, 1966. The boys are in school and all have received their education at Cayley. They are well known for their gymnastic abilities.

Cecil Kocher

Cecil Kocher came to Cayley in March, 1939 from Clive, where he had been farming. He purchased a service station from Archie Walker. His wife Flora and three children, Arthur, Jean and Margaret came in July of the same year. While at Cayley they had three more children, Ronald, Gary and Barbara. Cecil also did trucking and drove a school van.

They lived at Cayley for ten years and then moved to Calgary where Cecil has since passed away.

War Years

It was harvest time when war broke out in 1939. Soon boys from Cayley, along with all the others, had joined the services. The Red Cross began working furiously, school children purchased War Savings Certificates and all organizations lent a willing hand to the war effort. Farmers grew more grain than ever and high school boys helped with the harvest. When word came that Germany had invaded Norway a dance was in progress at the Odd Fellows Hall in Cayley and the news swept through the crowd.

They were anxious years, especially for those with loved ones in the services. When peace came and the boys returned, two jubilant "Welcome Homes" were held. In the memories of those who took part there was never before such wholehearted co-operation as the best the community afforded was brought forth to honor those who had risked their lives for the freedom of their country.

Honor Roll

Army 1939 - 1946

D.W. Beamer
Travis Brinton
Paul Brinton
C. Caspell
Gus Carlson
Ralph Charlton
Allan Doty
William Doty
A.W. Durham
Ernest Freeman
Harry Freeman
C. Gardner
Alex Hicklin
Kenneth Hicklin
Everett Hicklin
James Houghton
William Hirst
Clifford Ingram
George Johnston*
Arthur Kocker
Alex Lung
Frank Lung
W. Matheson
Kermit McDonagh
Chas. McDonagh
Milton McDonagh
Robert McPherson
Ole Olsen
Dennis Palmer
E.E. Reagh
Walter Schnelle
Wilson Schnelle
Clark Scobie
Robert Shields
William Shields
Herbert Stephenson
Archie Stephenson
Gerald Sweet
W. Eld
C. Hobbs
F. Hobbs
C. Johnson
Leslie Wickson
Chas. Wickson
Howard Farrell*

Navy:
Keith Cummings
Gavin Fowler
Thos. Gilchrist
David Gardner
Lawrence Hallett
Sidney Husby
Hansel Husby
J. Miller

U.S. Forces
Archie Cameron
Reynold Cameron
Donald Gribble
Lloyd Phillips
Karl Rasmussen
C. Schnelle
L. Walker

C.W.A.C.
Thelma Doty
V. Morrison
Norma Reagh
F. Taylor
L. Taylor

W.R.E.N.S.
Isobelle Sloane, N/S

Air Force:
Layton Arnold
Jack Beamer
Douglas Bevan*
Earl Caspell
Lyle Caspell
Mervyn Edey
Frank Fullerton
William Fullerton
Fred LePard
Robert LePatrouel
Sidney Linstedt
Irvin Palmer
Morley Scobie
Lynwood Walker
Leslie Bray
Thos. Humphrey
Ray Peterson
Arthur Wickson
Chas. Gardner

C.A.M.C.
R.D. Fletcher, N/S
F. Cameron, N/S

*Killed in action.

Cayley W. I.

In the spring of 1945, four ladies, Mrs. Charlie Craig, Mrs. E.E. Reagh, Mrs. Lynwood Walker and Mrs. L.J. Beaton saw the need of a new Women's Organization in the Cayley district, and one which was open to all who might care to belong. Mrs. Carl Alexander, who had grown up in W.I. work, suggested the Women's Institute.

On June 18th, 1945, a group of ladies met at the home of Mrs. E.E. Reagh to discuss the organization of a W.I. here. Mrs. R.D. McKeague of Blackie, Constituency Convener, attended the meeting and explained the aims of the W.I. The motion to organize was made by Mrs. Dick Brockway and seconded by Mrs. E. Keller.

Mrs. Carl Alexander was elected our first President. Mrs. C. Craig was Vice-President and Mrs. Keller Secretary-Treasurer. The first Directors were Mrs. E.E. Reagh, Mrs. R. Brockway and Mrs. Lynwood Walker. Ten members joined at the meeting, later increasing to thirty members. We gave it the name of "Cayley W.I. The W.I. slogan "For Home and Country" had a very real meaning for each member.

In the first years we were busy with the monthly projects of overseas parcels, and ditty bags for our boys overseas. Mrs. Cal Murdoch and Mrs. W. Crowe were the W.I. representatives on the newly formed community "Welcome Home" committee and some wonderful dinners and entertainments were held for the returning boys.

We have made the usual donations to the Red Cross, Jr. Red Cross, Wood's Home, Salvation Army, Mobile X-Ray Unit, collected for Cancer and Blind Funds. Also donated prizes to the Garden Club, held showers for fire victims, given Xmas hampers and helped with the upkeep of the Cemetery and Park. We helped organize the Cayley Home and School and on January 18, 1946, we helped organize the Cayley Community Club and donated One Hundred Dollars to it. Members made out the Ration Books for the district and there were five hundred and thirty four made out.

Our Group presented the school with a projector, screen, chairs and velour drapes, also many good books and magazines. We also asked for better school van service which was granted. We enjoyed amusing roll-calls, one being "How to stay young." This brought out a variety of answers, one said "Don't get married!" Another said "Do". Another lady, who must have had a bit of Irish blood, said, "It doesn't matter if you do or don't, you'll live to regret it".

The Provincial Dept. of Agriculture and General Housing Corporation sponsored a "Better Farm Homes" competition which we entered and tied for Fourth prize for our ideas. One lady, Mrs. Walter Crowe, thought door knobs should be dispensed with as her husband came in and hung his hat on one, tie on the next one and by the time he reached the bedroom, the knobs were pretty well draped.

In 1950 we helped entertain and billet, twenty three W.I. members from such faraway places as Norway, New Zealand and Japan, some of us still keep in touch with the ones we had as house guests. They travelled Alberta by chartered bus and while going through the Longview district they were held up by masked riders, led by Jim Wyatt, I believe. They were asked to get out and were delighted to find that the bandits were just friendly ranchers. All said later that it was one of the highlights of their tour.

The Pioneer Tea in 1954 was a wonderful afternoon spent with guests from the surrounding towns as well as Calgary and Lethbridge. One guest told of how she had dug a cellar under her mother's house in the early days. She was "Sweet Sixteen" and the community was well supplied with bachelors. When she saw one riding over the hill she would grab the pick and shovel and start working. The gentleman would take the shovel from her and it wasn't long until they had a cellar to store the vegetables in. She also told of life in a sod-roofed house and of their annual trip to Calgary for supplies.

On June 18th, 1965 we celebrated our Twentieth Anniversary. We owe a debt of gratitude to the ladies who organized our group, for great has been the pleasure of the meetings over the years.

"Welcome Home" Committee and Community Club

What is now known as the Cayley Community Club, started out in the local I.O.O.F. Hall, September 27th, 1945, with a meeting to organize the appropriate "Welcome Home" receptions for the boys and girls in the armed services. At this meeting the first officers of the committee were elected as follows: President: Garfield Sloane; Secretary: Gordon Cameron; Treasurer: Norman Stephenson.

The first few meetings were busy ones, planning the two "Welcome Home" banquets that were held during the next year. Sometime during 1947 the "Welcome Home" committee became the Community Club and carried on a very active program.

After the success of the banquets, the energy of the members was directed toward forming a Curling Club, and erecting Curling and skating rinks, and several money raising projects, such as dances, carnivals, pie socials and sales were organized for this purpose. The Edey Brothers also donated the lots north of the rink to the Community Club.

The Curling Club was very active for many years, and the Community Club kept busy with Pot Luck suppers and other fund raising activities to maintain the rinks, in which the whole community participated whole heartedly. Annual Community Club picnics were also started, and continued for several years.

In 1955, as their part of the Jubilee Celebrations, the Community Club sponsored a banquet and evenings entertainment to celebrate the Province's Golden Jubilee.

Curling in Cayley came to a slow halt, when High River and Nanton obtained artificial ice rinks, and in November of 1961, a bid of $180.00 was accepted from Tom Moncrieff for the Curling part of the rink building, excepting waiting rooms. The building left was repaired and retained by the Community Club, to be used for Community projects in the future. During this time, the building was used temporarily as a Cub and Scout Hall.

The Community Club was dormant for several years, until late in 1966, when a meeting was held and a decision was made to repair the building again, and fix up the rink to give the children a skating rink, with facilities for changing in the club house. And once again they were busy raising money to pay for this.

Ivy Walker

Cayley Curling Club

SWEEP! SWEEP! The frenzied cry of Cayley sportsmen, (and there were one hundred and twenty eight of them in the winter of 1948) went up, after planning and bringing to completion our curling rink.

A committee from the Community Club, early in 1948, visited curling rinks in Carseland, Indus and Red Deer Lake, and brought back the news that it would be feasible to build a rink in Cayley. The community was bitten by the "Curling Bug" and after harvest, construction began on the rink with all volunteer labor. The ladies served dinners and lunches to the men until the project was finished. Ice was made and thirty-two rinks began play in the two sheet rink. The club bought eight sets of stones, and many individuals purchased sets, and left them there to be used by all.

This was the hub of activity in the Cayley district, until in 1956, after a couple of very mild winters, when ice was made, lost to warm weather, made again and again and lost, the curlers lost interest and they were forced to close its doors. Artificial ice had been installed in High River and Nanton rinks where curling could continue from November to April. However these towns could not compete with the whole hearted fun and sportsmanship shown in our town. Some curlers joined the artificial clubs, but they also remained and curled whenever they could in Cayley.

We will never forget starting bonspiels, and then just as the games got rolling, have an uninvited guest- welcome at other times--or a warm chinook. Curling could not be stopped, so all night while the weather was cold, we curled, and then closed the doors during the day while the weather was too warm. These night bonspiels weren't the order of the day but they were fun, and no one objected too much.

We also remember Mary Brockway hurrying at 3.45 A.M., during one of these bonspiels, to catch a ride to Cayley to curl. Their lane was blocked with snow, so she walked to the highway to flag down what she supposed was a passing truck. To her horror, it was the early greyhound bus, and she had no money with her. The kindly bus driver drove her to the door of the rink. Dick Brockway had been on an earlier draw, and was resting before another one that morning.

Snow was deep that year and more than one family drove the tractor to the rink. Those mild winters caused the ice to melt on the south side of the rink and the ice surface often had a decided swoop to the wall. We all learned to throw rocks against the turn, but it confused our opponents from other towns for an end or two.

The Royal Lumber Company donated a trophy to be curled for annually and the last year of operation, the final games had to be played on High River ice. This was in 1956. J. Allen Baker also donated a trophy to the High School curlers.

Cayley followed the curling career of Barry Coleman as he curled his way as skip of a Vulcan rink of school boys to the Alberta School Boy's championship. Barry, whose father taught in Cayley in 1949, threw his first rocks in the Cayley rink.

Moisture got into the insulation of the rink, causing the siding to deteriorate, and in 1961 the building was condemned and had to be torn down. We were sorry to see the building go, but the skating rink still uses the waiting room.

Margaret Wickens

Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps

An R.C.A.C. Corps comprised of approximately forty boys and girls was formed in Cayley in 1946. E.E. Reagh, the Officer in Command, was assisted by Joe Gaetz., Sandy Durham, Elbert Couey, Norma Reagh, Bill Doty and Bill Shields. Marching and rifle drill, commando tactics and rifle range instruction was given.

The most important event was the Corps Inspection by Major Taylor, who was in charge of Army Cadets in Western Canada, and by the C.O. of Canada. The March Past was led by Piper A.W. Durham.

Winter activities included skiing at Widdup's Coulee with Army Issue skis and white camouflage parka jackets. During the summer the boys spent a week at Cadet Camp at Sarcee.

The Corps, which was active for about two years, was sponsored by the Cayley Odd Fellow's Lodge.

Ode To Cayley

by Eva Cumming

Some folks like to live in cities great,
In San Francisco by the Golden Gate,
In Toronto and Paris and London's Old Bailey,
But I'd rather live right here in Cayley.

No transit strikes or watchful cops,
No traffic jams with starts and stops,
No lights to tell you to stop and go,
No parking meters to take your dough.

No wailing sirens no pea-soup fog,
No devastating hurricanes nor smog.
No jostling crowds to annoy you daily,
You can jay-walk anywhere in Cayley.

We have no museums, parks or fountains,
But we have a view of the Rocky mountains
We have no water-tower nor tap
But Cayley still has a place on the map.

It's the friendliest place in all the land
Where there's always a welcome and a helping hand,
And the flag at the school flies proudly and gaily
O'er the village that's named for Hugh Quentin Cayley.

Credit Union

March 9, 1946 a meeting was held in the Cayley Town Hall to consider forming a Savings and Credit Union in Cayley. The idea was brought to the community by Mrs. Doris Rasmusen who became the first president. Gordon Cameron was the first Vice President and J.S. Bergh the first Secretary Treasurer, elected at the meeting of April 2, 1946. With a charter membership of thirteen the organization steadily grew. The annual report for 1966 gave the membership at 110 and assets at $68,788.77.

The President now is D.S. Beaton and the Secretary Treasurer H. Birkness. The total number of loans made since inception is $347,493.02 so the Credit Union can be seen as a thriving and beneficial asset to our community.

Edna Beaton

Jim Harris

Jim Harris came to Cayley from Vancouver in 1946 and bought the General Store building from George Wickens. The store had been closed for a time after Arnold Roy sold his stock to Sellers at Turner Valley.

In 1948 Jim and Elsie Marks of Emerson, Manitoba were married. They had two children, Phillip and Noreen. Jim passed away on January 31, 1956.

Elsie kept the store going until her health forced her to sell the business to Jim Moran of Nanton in 1964. She and the children moved to High River and in 1965 she married Mr. P. Buitendyk. Phillip is attending school in Medicine Hat and Noreen is in High School in High River.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bale

Mr. and Mrs. John Bale came to the Cayley district in 1946 to live near their daughters, Mrs. Herb Shier, Cayley and Mrs. M. Storey of Calgary.

The Bales had in their lifetime the unique experience of being part of farming operations in every province west of the Great Lakes. Both were born on farms in Ontario, moving to Manitoba and later to Saskatchewan and British Columbia and finally to Alberta and Cayley, where they spent twelve years together.

Mr. Bale had a small greenhouse while in Cayley. Here he spent many hours playing host to the little folk around town, where as well as having an answer to their endless questions, he usually had a small treat hidden away for each one.

After the death of Mrs. Bale, Mr. Bale retired to the Medicine Tree Manor, High River.

Ann Shier

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Scaman

Mr. and Mrs. Scaman came to Cayley in 1946 from Saskatchewan. They purchased a quarter section of land from Albert Ducommun that adjoined Cayley on the east. They were caretakers of the Cayley school for a number of years, also purchasing several houses in Cayley which they still own.

They sold their land to Len Beaton, Jr. in 1963 and moved to Sedgewick, Alberta where they still make their home.

Edna Beaton

"Smiling Jack" O' Brien

Many have seen Jack O'Brien walking the highway between Calgary and Lethbridge. He had no fixed abode but for many years made the Cayley Town Hall his sleeping place while travelling this part of the country. His washings were always very interesting hanging on the band-stand next to the Town Hall - his socks fastened to the leg-cuffs of his underwear.

Jack, who came originally from Ireland, never learned to drive a truck or tractor so his earning capacity was limited and he worked at digging gardens and other odd jobs for his meals. In his younger days he had worked in lumber camps. In recent years he fixed up a little place in Nanton as headquarters, but he still stops by in Cayley now and then.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward McPheeters

I was born in Alfriston, England (the town where King Alfred burnt the cakes) and came to Canada with my parents to settle in that area which Palliser was said to have described as only good for gophers. Certainly three year old horses were known to have worn their teeth out on the gravelly, short grass. The hardest thing to take were the bed bugs - native of the fir trees of the Cypress Hills, so were built into every pioneer home. The farm wagons became the pioneer summer bedrooms.

I became a teacher and then married a farmer, Ward McPheeters. I returned to teaching and in 1950, our daughter Vernona, and I came to Cayley where I taught Grades one and two. After twelve years of Correspondence and Summer School Courses I received my B.Ed. degree.

We bought the Charlie Craig home which had been the Cayley Livery barn residence for many years (still digging up horseshoes). Mr. McPheeters stayed on the farm at Rumsey until he retired in 1961 when he also came to Cayley.

Vernona finished school at Cayley and taught school in Calgary before marrying Wm Price. They and their two children live in Okotoks.

Joyce McPheeters

The Currans

Kitty and George Curran and their children Barbara and Jim moved into Cayley in 1951. Since that time Kitty has taught in the Cayley school, with George taking the Watkins dealership in 1956.

Barbara and Jim took all their schooling in Cayley. Barbara is married to a Calgary policeman, Jerry D. Smith, formerly of Nanton. Jim is employed by Calgary Power.

Glee Club

As well as teaching school and raising a family Kitty has found time to write short-stories, several of which have been published in the Family Herald.

She has encouraged the children to sing and has coached singing groups on to win in amateur contests.

In 1960 Kitty's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Rogers, homesteaders of the Michichi district and natives of Hastings, England, moved to Cayley. They lived in the Scamon house on the south end of town. Mr. Rogers died in 1963 and Mrs. Rogers in 1966.

List of Cayley Businesses

CONFECTIONERIES
"Daddy" Bauers
Mrs. Jack Curliss
Little Joe at Kwongs

BARBERS
George Bentley
Harry Bowen
Wilkie
Boyd
Jack Beamer
Jack Curliss
Moe
Elmer Williams
Mr. Clive Taylor

LIVERY BARNS
Webster Longacre
Joe Meyers and Mr. Shovener
Wes Ferris
Guy and Louis Maten
Jack and Jim Marshall
Chumley
Glen Zarley
Charlie Gribble
Bob McPherson, O. Charleton, Charlie Stitt
George Robertson

GENERAL STORE (Wickens Block)
George Wickens
Caspell & Nablo
C, B, Kervin & Hodson
Stata
Ed Caspell
Harold Metz
Arnold Roy
Reg Pennell
Jim Harris
Elsie Harris
Jim Moran

GENERAL STORE (McDonald Block)
Fred McDonald
H.E. Fawdrey
Metz Sr.

GENERAL STORE (Beaton Building)
Otto Johnson
Bob Hay
Ed Brady
O. Bertoia
Norman Jackson

GENERAL STORE
Kwong Lung
Mr. Tannas

BLACKSMITHS
Hines
Sandy Durham
Bill Cameron
Jack McDonald

DRAYMEN
J.P. Trepenier
Jack Learned
George Robertson

BOARDING HOUSES
Mrs. Fitger
Charles Smith
Mrs. Farrell
Mrs. Hall

LUMBER YARDS
Slater
Frank Davis (Skov Lumber about 1917)
Herb Hamilton
George Cameron
Royal Lumber Managers:
Gaetz, Alex McDonald, Clarke,
Peterson, Massam

HARDWARE
Stimson and Smith
Scragg & McMeaken
Carl Stein
S.J. Henry
Elves Bros.
Marshall Bros.
Wickens
Swenunumson
Royal Lumber

BUTCHER SHOP
Ingraham Bros.
W.S. Derry
Len Beaton
Empey
Douglas Holmes
Don Beaton

BAKERY
Jimmie Abderson
Kwong Lung

DRUGS
F. Chisholm
O. Fetherston
Dr. A.O. Brown

Angel and Loretta Christianson

"Chris" was born in Hadsel, Norway and came to Canada in 1921. Loretta (Cressman) was born in Didsbury. Chris and Loretta farmed at Sundre and came to Cayley in 1951 when they bought Joe Hill's Poultry and egg business at the south end of town.

They have built the business up from a small beginning to a large enterprise, handling about 3,000 hens when running at full capacity.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Norris

Stan and Marge Norris and their girls Lane and Margaret came to Cayley in 1952 where Stan was Principal of the school. During the fourth year he left for Stanford University to study for his Doctorate and Marge took over as Principal. Dr. Norris is now on the faculty of the University of Alberta in Calgary.

Stan and Marge had Cayley's first television set.

Provincial Golden Jubilee

When Alberta celebrated 50 golden years as a province in 1955, Senior Citizen Scrolls were issued, when requested, to all citizens resident in the province for fifty years. Scrolls were presented at a banquet and program held in Cayley during the fall to Mrs. Fairy Walker, Mrs. Henry Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Stephenson, Philip Wilkinson, Vinton Roy, Elbert Couey, Charles Phillips, H.D. Johnson, C.A. Murdoch, Ivor McNamee, C.W. McCrea and Everett Keller.

Roast elk, donated by successful hunters of the district, was the main course at the banquet. Guests were welcomed by Lloyd Caspell, president of the Cayley Community Club. Mervyn Edey was Master of Ceremonies.

J.T. North of Calgary was the guest speaker. Roy Fowler spoke on the history of the big ranches, and Mrs. Everett Keller told of the homesteaders of the district and the early village history. Also on the program was a recitation by Verone McCrea, vocal solo by Mrs. I. McNamee and old time music by Vern Shantz and J. Wycheck.

Former residents of the district were present and many were dressed in old-time costumes. Prize winners were Mrs. Fairy Walker, Ed Brewster. Judges were Bert Widdup and L. Beaton. Mrs. L. Beaton and her daughter Mrs. Gordon Cameron received corsages as the ladies with the longest record of continuous residence in the district. H.D. Johnson and Arthur LePatourel were the men with a similar record. At that time they were the only original homesteaders of the district still residing on the land. Mrs. Norman Brown and Mrs. Lendrum were the eldest ladies present. Mr. Norman Brown was the eldest gentleman.

Rev. John McKelvey gave the closing address and prayer.

The Odd Fellows Hall was very suitably decorated for the occasion by members of the Cayley High School Students Union. The display they had arranged included an old buffalo skull loaned by Charles Shortt of High River.

Mayor and Mrs. Creel Sanders

Creel was a son of pioneer Elza Creel Sanders of Pekisko. Creel and Doris Troute were married in Cayley in 1934, coming to reside in Cayley in 1953 when Creel took over the garage business from "Hap" Reagh.

He became Mayor of Cayley in 1960 having served on the town council since 1957. He is an active member of the Cayley Oddfellow Lodge and the Credit Union. He has driven a school van for the past ten years.

They have two children, Opal Doreen, R.N., presently nursing at Turner Valley and Creel Guy Sanders teaching at Grande Prairie. He married Judy Campbell of Grande Prairie in 1966.

Doris' parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Troute, homesteaded east of High River, coming from Iowa in 1904. In 1910 the family moved by covered wagon to Montana, Doris at that time being the youngest member.

Later in 1916 the family came back to Alberta buying the Major Burke property along the Highwood River where Doris grew up. Her father passed away in 1931 and her mother in 1945.

Doris Sanders

Floyd and Peggy Smithson

Floyd was raised in Bashaw and Peggy came from Mirror. They moved to Cayley in 1958 with two children, Dale and David. Since coming to Cayley they have added three more children to their family: Blair, Sue Ellen and Laurie.

Floyd is employed with the Peerless Wood Preservers at Cayley and they live in the former "Brewster Boys" home.

George Woody

George came to Cayley from Coronation in 1958 and worked for Fred Edey. In 1961 he moved into the village. He was Cayley's first possessor of a colored television set which he won on a draw in High River in November 1966.

Keith and Barbara Campbell

Keith is a gravel trucker whose work first brought him to this district to work on the 4-lane highway between High River and Nanton.

He and his wife Barbara and two children, Suzan age 13 and Randy age 10 moved from Stavely to Cayley in 1960.

They live in the house Mr. John Scamon had moved from Black Diamond and put on the old Skov Lumber yard property.

Barbara Campbell

Reg and Ivy Walker and Family

Reg Walker returned to his home in London, England at the outbreak of the war. During his service overseas he met and married Ivy Harris, and they returned to his Uncle William Walker's farm in the Travers district with their son Peter, then two years old, after the war. From there they moved to Vulcan where their other four children Terry (Theresa), Brenda, Raymond and Jane were born.

They moved to Cayley, where they bought the Fairy Walker house, in November 1956. Reg took the position as caretaker of the Cayley School in June 1963.

The Cayley Tumbling and Gymnastic Club

The Cayley Tumbling Club started in 1961, and has progressed from a small tumbling club to a group of active gymnasts represented in centres from Vegreville to Banff and Acme. It is one that has been recognized from Saskatoon to Edmonton as a growing and eager potential.

Cayley has been very successful in the Southern Alberta Regional Gymnastics competitions, producing most of the medalists in all age groups.

Cayley Tumbling Club 1964. L to R: Albert Tutte, Ronny Todd, Ellen Noad, Terry Walker, Jimmy Baker, Brian Sweet, Gail Peterson (Queen), Suzanne Campbell.

Basket-Ball Team, Cayley High School 1964. Top row: L to R: Joy Baker, Donna Rockafellow, Ellen Noad, Helen Greftegreff, Wilma Edwards, Jytte Jorgenson. Bottom row: Mary Skory, Gail Noad, Randy VanWinkle, Shirley DeRoaldes.

Tom and Helen Fitzgerald

Helen and Tom came originally from Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan. They moved to Cayley from High River in 1963 and Tom was employed with the Peerless Wood Preservers.

They live in the Babe Hallett home. Their children are Jimmy, Shannon and Wanda.

Adventures In Cayley School

The Grade 4 class of the Cayley school recently finished its first enterprise of the school year. The whole program was most interesting, but the finish was far more exciting than the children expected.

The exercise was an imaginary plane trip, that crash-landed in the desert - to help them learn how man solves the problem of survival in certain habitats. To stimulate the imagination - the darkened projection room was the scene of the "crash."

While the "crew" was mending the plane, the "passengers" gathered around for a sing-song to keep up their morale. About this time a "native" dressed in the flowing robes of an arab entered the scene, intent only on being friendly, and adding color and atmosphere to the imaginary adventure - unfortunately his motives were misunderstood and chaos resulted. The following is the description of this particular part of the "Airplane trip," a page from the diary of the "co-pilot" Roy Rasmusen, aged nine.

Today we got off the plane and were singing, then suddenly an Arab came and looked at that strange thing we call an airplane, and how funny we dressed, but we thought he wore funny clothes too. Every lady there and some of us men were really screaming. Then we went back to singing "Old MacDonald Had a Farm." Then some of us men guarded the door because he might come back again, then we could see who was giving us the scare. Some of the funniest things happened there - that was the worst trip the pilot and I ever made.

When the man came in, the pilot ran to me and I ran to him and we hit each other. Then I jumped up on him and wondered why I was afraid, because there were 22 of us, so I ran up to him (the Arab) and just about caught him, but he ran out of the plane. Then when he was getting out I saw his face and he was just as scared as any of us. One of the passengers ran to him, and saw that beard and ran away like everyone else. Then he went back to singing. The next time everyone started to scream, I ran under the table. Then the pilot quieted everyone down and he and I got the switch working."

We have it on the very best authority that the "Arab" was indeed far more scared at the reception than any of the "passengers and crew" and has vowed, in future he will avoid making any friendly gestures toward strange airplanes with their unfriendly cargoes.

High River Times

Standing: Barry Coleman, Doreen Holstein, Alberta Tiffin, Sherry Hanson, Mrs. Elsie Zimmerman, Henry Unger, Joyce Barker, Norma Stephenson, Fern Peterson, Dean Shields, Leon Peterson. 3rd row: Mel dePaoli, Gary Keller, Ray Foose. 2nd row: Gordon Rasmusen, Max Tetachuk, Carol Houlden, Denise Birkness. 1st row: Yvonne Alexander, Muriel Scobie, Bruce McNamee. (1950).

Canadian Pacific Railway and Agents

With the coming of the railroad, Western Canada was opened to the homesteaders. The C & E line from Calgary to Mekastoe, three miles north of Fort Macleod, was opened in 1892, and it was continued in 1898 to a junction with the Crowsnest line at Calgary and Edmonton junction, two miles south of the present Fort Macleod junction. The line was relocated through Fort Macleod in 1906.

W.H. Allen opened the C.P.R. station at Cayley on October 26, 1906. The station was just a shack, 12x16, on the side of the track opposite the A.P. elevator. There the ranchers gathered when they brought in cattle for shipment.

Mr. Allen and his family lived over MacDonald's store during the winter of 1906 until the station was finished in 1907. The settlers were still coming in, and the station was a busy place. Frank Walker was an old telegrapher who used to sit for Mr. Allen, so he could go to his farm on a Sunday, and Mr. Allen remembers that all he would take for pay was "Your cigars and read your magazines".

Mr. Allen says, "While at Cayley we made a lot of friends. The hall was over MacDonald's store. Dancing, concerts and church were held there. Rev. John McLean was the Minister while we were there. One Sunday, Mr. Couey came in late, while the collection was being taken up. Rev. McLean said, "Well Mr. Couey, you are right in time for collection", and Mr. Couey replied, "Yes, and I've got it right here in my pocket".

"We belonged to a Pedro Club, and played all over the country. One night they had all gone to Dan Keller's to play but me, since there was no one to stay with the children. About midnight along came Dan with the horse and buggy for me. The baby sitter, Rev. Beaton, had gotten home by this time, so I got up and went out.

I left Cayley in May, 1912 for Medicine Hat to prove up on a South African scrip. Mr. Jessie relieved me, afterwards going to Aldersyde. We will always remember Cayley, and our many friends there". Mr. and Mrs. Allen reside in Nanton. Mr. Allen is 87 years of age.

Between 1912 and 1918 H. Phillips and Tony Holmetz were the agents. Then Herb Cronk with his wife and small daughter, Margaret, came to spend ten years at the station. Mr. Cronk remembers the country as prosperous after a series of good crops. Farmers were still threshing with steam engines, and hauled their wheat with horses, sometimes with six teams on a load.

The people were friendly and kindly to new arrivals, and he has cherished memories of friendships developed while at Cayley. He later was the agent at Nanton, before retiring to North Surrey, B.C. His daughter and her family farm nearby at Cloverdale.

The Percy Fleming family followed Mr. Cronk in 1928, coming from Raymond and staying for five years here. They were transferred to Crossfield in 1933. While at Cayley the children, Jack, George and Nora started to school. Jack's first teacher was Anna Watt, the Minister's daughter, and Kathleen Shier was George and Nora's first teacher. Mrs. Fleming sang in the United Church choir under the leadership of the late Mrs. H.B. Robinson and Mrs. Fairy Walker as Organist. Percy enjoyed fishing in the Highwood and they recall such happy times dancing, skating and playing cards at Cayley.

The boys were in the Air Force and George is still in the Air Force at Cold Lake. Jack is a Pharmacist and he and his partner own two drug stores. Jack

lives and manages the one at Grand Centre, two and a half miles from Cold Lake and the other store is at Cold Lake. Nora was a Pharmacist at Edmonton before marrying a grain farmer, Jack Laird of Ohaton.

After nine years at Crossfield, Percy and Eva were transferred to Lacombe where Mr. Fleming retired in 1955.

In 1933 the Earl Brinton family moved to the station with their family, Wenty, Paul, Travis, Goldie and Helen. Two of the children were already married, Earl and Lucy (Mrs. Clifford Ingraham). The Brinton family have remained a part of Cayley life, with Helen marrying Jack Christie and farming just west of town. Goldie also married a Cayley boy, Archie Cameron, and they live at Salem, Oregon. Wenty married Lillian Houlden and he died in 1955.

Mr. Brinton was transferred from Cayley to Didsbury in 1940. They retired to Calgary and are both deceased.

Following the Brintons were the Stan Ibbotson family who liked Cayley so well that they spent 13 years here. Neil, their only son, is now in CPR Communications in Calgary, Norene lives in Edmonton, Marion in Kamloops, Bette in Burns Lake, B.C. where she and her husband own and operate two auto courts. Nelda lives in Hanna where her husband is town secretary, and Myra lives in Medicine Hat.

Mr. Ibbotson was raised on a farm in Western Ontario, and learned telegraphy and station work in 1906-7. He started on the Moose Jaw district in 1909, and was Government Telegrapher in Peace River in 1911. After a few months on the Denver and Rio Grand and Salt Lake route, out of Salt Lake, he returned to the CPR in 1916. He served in France for almost 22 months in World War 1, then returned to work for the CPR for 45 years. He retired to Calgary in 1954. They recall their time in Cayley as the most enjoyable location they had.

Since then, the agents at Cayley have been Mr. Park, Mr. Harper and Mr. Burkitt - all spending a short time in our midst, before the station closed in 1964.

Margaret Wickens

Railway Notes — Azure Siding

Roy Fowler relates that when the survey was made for the C & E Railway the surveyors ran out of stakes near the area which was later Cayley and used buffalo bones instead.

The first regular train service was two trains a week comprised of mixed freight and passenger cars. The grades to Cayley from both the south and north were difficult for the trains - especially for the heavier freight loads of later years. It was often necessary to split trains from the south a mile out of town. The engine would bring in half - then turn around at the "Y" and bring in the second half. It was of course downhill from Cayley north.

In 1910 the CPR, which had bought out the C & E, bought fourteen acres from Harry Richards to build a flag-station to be called Azure. The High River Times wrote: "It is a well-known fact that the heavy grade between High River and Cayley causes a lot of trouble and the intention is to put in a siding at the above point to enable heavy freight cars to be side-tracked while half the train is taken to Cayley and left there until the engine returns for the other half. Harry Richards has visions of a fine little town on his homestead."

A loading platform where farmers shovelled grain into side-tracked box-cars was the only addition for many years. Then two grain elevators - the Wheat Pool and the Pioneer were built in the late 1920's. Later the Pioneer elevator was purchased by Sam Brown and moved to his farm. In the late 1940's stockyards were built at Azure. Heavy shipments of cattle were made from the yards for a few years and a number of cattle-sales held there. The Yards have since been dismantled.

Railway ties in the first years were untreated and in wet years soaked up moisture. Old Timers say that as the train passed over, water shot out of the ends of the ties.

Jack Bray Family

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bray came from England to Innisfail and then moved to Cayley between 1910-1912. They lived in a house on the street east of the hotel with Lathams in a house east of them and the Saunders east on the corner (where Reg Tutte's live now). Mr. Bray worked on the section before joining the 137th Battalion in High River where all the local boys trained. The Cayley U.F.A. put on a supper for them and they all marched down to Cayley and back. In 1916 Jack got thirty days leave to help Robert Houlden put in his crop.

About this time the Brays adopted a boy, Leslie. Jack returned home and worked for Joe Hallett on the section. He was transferred to Shaunavon, Sask. and died there about 1921 or 22. Mrs. Bray returned to Cayley and lived in the home now owned by Tom Moncrieff.

Several years later Mrs. Bray married Hans (Tiny) Martman. She passed away in 1948 and Hans moved to Creston where he remarried and has since passed away.

Leslie married a High River girl and worked in the Turner Valley Oil fields for several years and is now living in Calgary and has an Audit Service.

The Halletts

Henry George "Joe" Hallett came to Cayley from England in 1907, and for the next four years worked on surrounding ranches and in a Cayley livery stable. In 1911 Sarah Ann Savill, his childhood sweetheart, arrived. They were married in Cayley by the Reverend Beaton and for the next six months worked on the CC Ranch.

That fall they moved into Cayley and Joe went to work for the CPR as section man. In the spring of 1912 he became foreman and worked on the same section until he retired in 1949-thirty seven years on the same section of track! It was said that he knew every tie, spike and angle-bar along that line.

In 1924 Joe purchased a quarter section of land from the Hallidays one half mile south of the village, and ran the farm along with his work as foreman on the railway. Many nights when cattle were being shipped by the ranchers he was called out of bed to coal engines and sand stock cars.

After his retirement he and Mrs. Hallett continued to live on the farm until illness forced him to sell out in 1953. They lived in High River until Joe passed away in 1958 and Mrs. Hallett passed away on March 1st, 1966 at the age of 85 years.

They had three children, Will, Gwen and Lawrence (Babe). Will still resides within shooting distance of Cayley. Gwen (Mrs. Dan LePatourel) lives west of High River. Babe and family, Lorraine, Leslie and Ross are now in Champion. Babe's wife, the former Muriel Briars, passed away in 1965.

Lawrence Hallett

Bill Moreland

Bill Moreland was Section Foreman before Joe Hallett took over in 1912. They had two daughters, Lily and Edith. Edith married George Shields. She was a very fine singer and her solos were enjoyed at many Cayley concerts. Mr. Moreland played the bass horn in local bands.

The family later resided in Nanton.

Mr. Harris

Mr. Harris was employed on the section. His wife taught music at Cayley. They had five children, including twins.

Bill Carr

He was second man when Joe Hallett was foreman. They moved to Macleod where they lived for several years. They had six children: Edward, Edith, Margaret, Henry, Ethel and Phyllis.

John T. Vance

My folks came from Eastern Canada to Calgary. Dad was with the CPR and we lived there for about ten years then Dad was moved to Cayley in about 1904 or 5. We lived in the section house for seven years. Dad got tired of railroading and retired, buying a farm seven miles east of Cayley, N.E. ½-18-17-27-W4, where we lived several years. Then being restless again he moved to Eastern Canada, back to Red Deer, Alberta and finally to Creston, B.C. where he bought a fruit farm. That's where he had his stroke and died. Mother moved to Nelson and died shortly after.

I married Fred Meyers in 1916 and have four children.

Ethel Vance Meyers

George and Roland Hill & Family

My two older brothers, George and Roland, had been working on the CPR section gang and had told us some pretty tall tales about Alberta's Chinooks, so when they went back to Ontario to bring the family to Cayley we came expecting a tropical climate. That was in the spring of 1906 and we went to school a mile south of Cayley that awful winter of 1906 and 7. We sure were disgusted but later learned to love the country and the climate.

Our home was the section house just south of the Cayley station. We were a big family that came to live with my older brothers; Mother, Frank, Bill, Alice, myself and younger sister Bernice. Our father was away ill at the time and didn't join us till a year later when we moved to a farm three miles north of Nanton. After two years there, we moved to Parkland for four years then to a homestead twenty miles northeast of Lomond. My family never stayed in one place very long.

Marie Caspell was our teacher that first year. She had two young brothers to teach, too, which made it hard for her. I remember very clearly one day when she sent a boy to put an armful of papers into the big stove. As he passed Murray Caspell's desk, Murray stuck out his foot and tripped him. The poor kid landed with his head right in the coal pail and Miss Caspell boxed Murray's ears quite soundly.

We had lots of good times, and some bad ones. Is the old CPR Y still there where they used to turn the trains? We kids used to sneak our big brothers hand car up to the end of the Y and then pumping like mad we'd tear down onto the main track. It's a wonder we weren't killed.

Our little dog, Jack, and our pet cow were both killed by trains at Cayley.

Our pony was the town pet - she would walk right into peoples kitchens looking for sugar and always very kind and gentle but one day Irvin Beisegel came along on his horse and started teasing her with a whip. Well, she laid back her ears and chased him and his horse all the way home!

Beatrice Smith was my closest friend. I remember we rode on Mother's Pass down to Stavely and saw our first picture show.

My brothers Frank and Roland enlisted in the first Great War and Frank lost his life there.

Mrs. D. Goreham, Calgary (Dolly Hill)

K. Fugiwara

Mr. and Mrs. K. Fujiwara lived in Cayley in the late 50's with their family, son Fred and their three little girls, Sally, Frances and Mary. Mr. Fujiwara was section foreman on the CPR and they are now making their home in Medicine Hat.

Fred obtained his degrees in Education and is teaching in Calgary. Frances is a secretary in Calgary and Sally has her R.N. and is married and living in Edmonton. Mary is taking her Grade Twelve.

Mr. and Mrs. John Kozma

John and Irene Kozma came to Canada from Paly, Hungary on March 1st, 1925. They came from Milo to Cayley in 1949. John was Section Foreman on the CPR line, first from Connemara to Azure and later from Cayley to High River.

Mrs. Kozma was an ardent Red Cross worker and W.I. member and won many prizes on her needlework at the W.I. Conventions.

The village was saddened by the loss of their young son, Chester, in an accident at Cayley on July 8th, 1952. He is buried in High River. Their other son, John, is an Accountant in Calgary. He and his wife, Rose, have a daughter, Ruth.

Their daughter Aileen was a registered nurse and is the wife of F/L Leo Kerkhoff, now stationed in Quebec. They have four children, Cindy, Chrissy, Chester and Larry.

Mr. and Mrs. Kozma spent fifteen years in Cayley and retired in September of 1964 to their new home in Lethbridge.

Grain Shipping Point

It is estimated that twenty million bushels of grain, eighty percent of it wheat, has been shipped from Cayley over the past sixty years. The first grain brought to Cayley was shovelled directly from wagon to box-car. Sacked grain was also shipped in the early years. It was after 1906 when the first loading platform was built. In 1906 No. 1 Red Fyfe brought 51 cents a bushel on the local market, oats 20 and barley 24. Flax was listed at 85 cents.

First Elevator
Wm. Barnes by post.

After the elevators were built, it was a common sight in the fall to see six-horse grain tanks lined up from the elevators back to the Post Office waiting their turn to unload. The elevators had hand-cranked hoists with atipping platform to dump the wagons. The elevators never closed - wagons were unloaded day or night. Freight cars were spotted by horses. Grain never graded tough in those days for moisture tests had yet to be devised.

The Cayley Union of the Society of Equity built the first grain elevator in Cayley in 1906. The Contractor was Guy Walker. Wm. Barnes and Arthur LePatourel both worked with the construction crew. "Snuffy" Schooler was the first grain-buyer. About 1908 the elevator was sold to Cummins Grain Company and Wm. Barnes became the agent. Alberta Pacific bought out Cummins. The elevator was destroyed by fire in 1928 and was rebuilt the same year. Other agents are Mr. McFarland, Clarence Thompson, H.C. Buhr, Norman Jackson, Len Newsom and Joe McFadden.

The first United Grain Growers Limited elevator in Cayley was built in 1914 by the Alberta Farmer's Co-operative Elevator Co. Ltd. It was a metal-clad struc-

Elevators, Cayley, Alberta

ture and had a capacity of 30,000 bushels. In 1917 the Company amalgamated with the Grain Growers Grain Company and became United Grain Growers Limited. Records show that in 1929 the first air-dump was installed. In 1932 an elevator of 30,000 bushels capacity was built and the old elevator became a twin to the second. In 1940-41 two "annexes" were built having a capacity of 42,000 and 32,000 bushels.

The local Board of Directors of the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative in 1915 was made up of G.D. Sloane, Chairman; R.L. MacMillan, H.C. Wingate, R.H. Meyers and Wm Caspell, Secretary. U.G.G. agents are A. Hobbs, Robert McCrindle, Roy LePard, Joe Bergh, Al Nesbill, Phillip Schultz and Edward Preston.

The U.G.G. took in Wheat Pool grain for three years until the Pool elevator was built.

Midland Pacific sold to Robin Hood Elevator Company who about 1931 sold to National. Agents are Emil Ludke, Frank Davis, Mr. Swanson, Otto Johnson and Lawrence Hallett. Since 1966 the elevator has been operated by the Alberta Pacific Grain Co. (No record of earlier grain-buyers for Midland Pacific could be found.)

The first Bawlff agent in Cayley of which we have a record was Clark Eyres. He was followed by Gordon Caspell, Alex Gilchrist, J. Scollen, Emil Dais and W. Denison. In 1940 the Bawlff was taken over by the Federal Grain Company and in 1943 by the Northern Grain Company, and soon after became Alberta Wheat Pool No. 2.

Alberta Wheat Pool No. 1 was built in the 1920's, the first agent being Mr. Sprunt. Others were Wayne Ransom, Walter Crowe and Herb Birkness.

Elwood Shortt of High River was Second Man in one of the Cayley elevators just before the first war. The Shortt family left Cayley for Acme.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Eyres

Mr. and Mrs. Eyres and Jimmy came to Cayley from McTaggart, Sask. about 1912 where Mr. Eyres was an elevator agent and took over the operation of the Bawlff elevator here. For a time they lived in the house now owned by the Floyd Smithson family, later moving to the house which stood next to Babe Halletts home and was later moved to Bill Wicken's farm.

They were members of the Oddfellow and Rebekah Lodges and Mrs. Eyres was an ardent church worker. They lived in Cayley for about ten years and then Mr. Eyres was transferred to the Bawlff elevator in High River. They bought a house which has recently been demolished to make room for the Snodgrass Funeral Home.

Mr. and Mrs. Eyres were very friendly and hospitable people, ready to help anyone. Mrs. Eyres continued to work for the Women's Missionary Society until shortly before her death at the age of 83. After moving to High River they became members of the Masonic and Eastern Star Lodge.

Jim is living in Miami and came often to High River to visit his mother and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Hobbs

Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Hobbs and their three boys, Bob, Fred, and Cecil lived in Cayley for quite a number of years where Al was agent for the United Grain Growers. He was interested in buying and selling horses as a sideline.

Mrs. Hobbs was an ardent church worker, she was a great student of Bible History and taught the Bible Class in Sunday School.

After leaving Cayley the Hobbs family moved to Ponoka where they lived while Al farmed for several years and Mrs. Hobbs grew a beautiful flower and vegetable garden.

Later Cecil and his father went into business in Edmonton where they built the Hobbs Concrete Block Co. which Cecil is still managing.

Mrs. Hobbs died in 1950, Mr. Hobbs in 1967 at the age of 96.

The Learneds

The Jack Learned family came to Cayley from Irricana about 1920. Jack was second man in the Alberta Pacific elevator for a few years, then drove a horse-drawn road maintainer between Cayley and Nanton. The family were Irwin, Laura,

Ludtke

Emil Christian Ludtke, his wife Emma and little daughter Ora came to Cayley about 1919 or 20 to operate the Midland Pacific elevator. They lived next door to Saunders across the alley from the Town Hall. In 1924 "E.C." became entangled with the machinery in the elevator and was badly hurt. Unable to work in the elevator, he moved his family to Calgary and then to Okotoks where he operated a feed mill in the Eastern part of the town, also a small feed lot.

After Emmas death, E.C. moved to Bow Island where Ora (Mrs. Alvin Johnson) taught school while her husband farmed.

Emil and Emma Ludtke are both buried in the Okotoks cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Thompson

James Clarence Thompson came west from Flesherton, Ontario, via harvest excursion in 1915 to Parkland. In 1917 he came to Cayley and bought grain for the Alberta Pacific Grain Company until ill health forced his resignation in 1948.

In 1919 he returned East for his bride, Eva Jane Jamison of Eugenia, Ontario. Their twins Delbert and Delma were born in Cayley on May 25, 1923.

Along with his work as elevator agent, Clarence had the John Deere Agency and sold General Motors cars. He also had a small farm bordering the town on the north east. He served for a number of years on the Village Council as Councillor and Mayor.

Mrs. Thompson was active in the United Church and Rebekah Lodge. She passed away in April 1943.

After Mr. Thompsons retirement he moved to High River and sold real estate with Baird and Casey until his death in September, 1950.

Delbert lives in Nanton with his wife Gladys and their three children, Patricia, Margaret, Beverly, and their Centennial baby, James Clarence. Delma, Mrs. Leonard Van Tigham, resides in High River. The Van Tigham children are Ann and Pat.

Delma Van Tigham

Roy LePard Family

Roy and Nell LePard were transferred by the United Grain Growers Co. from Cochrane to Cayley about 1927. Roy was well known for the beautiful gladioli garden he grew, planting about 500 bulbs each year and sharing them with his neighbours and his church. Nell was a dressmaker and was beloved by the school children, they knew they could stop in with Jean after school and there was always a big slice of angel food cake and a glass of milk waiting for them. Nell passed away on March 27th, 1943 leaving a daughter, Winnifred Jean, age twelve.

Roy and Mrs. Lillian McManaman of High River were married in 1944 and in 1945 they were transferred to Fort Macleod and lived there until moving to Kaledin, B.C. in 1951. He retired from the elevator due to ill health and moved to Penticton where he worked in the Bank. He passed away January 14, 1963.

Jean graduated as a nurse from the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary and is now Mrs. Joe Schaurete and they live in Victoria, B.C. They have a family of ten children. "When I wanted a large family I never knew how many dirty clothes they'd have", says Jean.

"Grandma" LePard lived in Cayley many years in a cosy little home that Roy bought for her. She had a happy nature and enjoyed visiting her neighbors and friends. She passed away in October, 1953 at the age of 85.

A nephew, Fred lived at Cayley with the LePards for several years and joined the Air Force. His sister Helen, also spent some time with them.

Alec Gilchrist Family

"Mrs. Alec (Jean) Gilchrist will long be remembered with respect and affection by all the pupils she taught at Cayley. She instilled extra interest into otherwise dry subjects and taught French with a Scotch accent. Classes were kept alive and students awake with an unexpected joke or a well-aimed blackboard brush as the moment demanded", wrote one of the former pupils.

Alec Gilchrist came from Swalwell in 1929 as manager of the Bawlf Elevator Company. The family later farmed the Saunders place west of town.

The family were Rita (Mrs. Gordon Beagle), Nellie, Tom, Joe and Jean. Rita taught in the Cayley school before and after her marriage. Jean is teaching in Calgary.

The Gilchrists moved east of Calgary for a time, later buying land in the De Winton district. Mrs. Gilchrist passed away in 1965. Mr. Gilchrist resides in Calgary.

Emil and Katherine Dais

We moved to Cayley from the dried-out area of Leader, Sask. in late June, 1937, and the green of the countryside was such a pleasant change from the parched fields we had left that morning.

We arrived in Cayley late in the afternoon and discovered that the elevator company's residence was still occupied by the previous agent, Mr. J. Scollen. Mr. Earl Brinton, who was then station agent at Cayley, kindly permitted us to break the seal of the box-car which contained our household effects and which had arrived just before we did. This enabled us to remove some of the household goods with which we set up temporary housekeeping in the elevator office. This done, we had supper at the small restaurant operated by "Joe", who welcomed us with his ever-present smile.

After this, we explored the town and got a pleasant surprise when we heard band music and discovered that the Cayley Band (of which I later became a member) was rehearsing for the Calgary Stampede Parade.

In early June of 1937 I had made a trip to Calgary in search of a job as grain buyer and accepted a position with the N. Bawlf Grain Company. In about 1940 this elevator was taken over by Federal Grain Ltd., and in 1943 by Northern Grain Co., each company retaining me as agent.

Our daughter, Shirley, went to school with Miss Marguerite Schnelle as teacher our first year in Cayley and finished high school before we left. Shirley is now Mrs. Roy Nelson and lives in Nanton.

We decided to start farming and I was succeeded by Mr. W. Denison in April, 1947, after spending an enjoyable ten years in the Cayley Community. We now reside in Nanton.

Emil Dais

Joe and Annie Bergh

Mr. and Mrs. Bergh came to Cayley from Sedgewick to take over the U.G.G. elevator when Roy LePard was transferred to Fort Mcleod in 1945.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Bergh took an active part in the community life of Cayley, Mrs. Bergh in W.M.S. and as a Sunday School teacher and Joe sang in the choir. He had quite a record collection of good music and enjoyed playing these records for his friends.

They had two daughters, Elinor (Mrs. R. Bell) and Lorraine (Mrs. McDonald). They both live in Calgary.

Mr. and Mrs. Bergh retired to Victoria, B.C. in 1958 where Mr. Bergh enjoys fishing and stamp collecting as a hobby.

Otto and Louise Johnson

Louise and I have many happy memories of our years in the Cayley district, but when it comes to remembering happenings of so many years ago it is not so easy. However, I came to Cayley in the fall of 1941 as buyer for the National

Grain Co. Being able to rent a house from Mrs. Holmes, a Cayley oldtimer, I brought my wife and two young daughters, Ann Carrol four years, and Kathleen two years to live here. Our reception into the community life of the Cayley people was wonderful and made the years to follow very happy ones for us. Our girls began their education at the Cayley school and spent fine years toward their education there.

In the spring of 1946 Louise and I thought Cayley could stand a second store, so we started Johnson's General Store in the building that had been Beatons Meat Market. Our years in the store business were very happy and gratifying.

During those years I was on the Cayley Town Council, along with Don Beaton, Norman Edey, Mayor, and Mac McCrea, Sec-Treasurer.

In the fall of 1951 I accepted the opportunity to go and work for an Oilwell Service Co. in Edmonton, Perforating Guns of Canada Ltd. where I am still employed.

The two girls finished their education in Edmonton. Ann Carrol became a registered nurse, then married Roger Youngblut of Edmonton. They now live in Winnipeg, Man. Kathleen finished up as an X-Ray technician. She married Harvey Leach of Edmonton and now lives at St. Albert, just north of Edmonton.

Otto Johnson

Clarence Peterson Family

We moved from Carsland to Cayley in June, 1943. Clarence was a Watkins Salesman and worked at this until 1948 when he went to work for the Wheat Pool. He was the agent at Azure until 1958 when we moved to Chigwell to be the agent there.

Clarence joined the I.O.O.F. Lodge in 1944 and I joined in 1945 and we are still members of the Cayley Lodge.

Our family got most of their education in Cayley. Pam received her R.N. at the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary. Ferne and Leon both worked in the Bank in High River.

Pam (Mrs. Alex Fallow) lives in Edmonton and has four children. Ferne (Mrs. Joe Ceh) lives in Calgary and has five children and Leon is at Fort Smith, N.W. T. and has one boy.

We had many happy years at Cayley and we will always remember them. It is home to our family.

Grace Peterson

Frankie and Walter Crowe

We arrived in Cayley July 4, 1945 from Carseland following Wayne Ransom who was appointed Travelling Supt. for the Pool Elevators out of Hanna.

Our first meal in Cayley was with Mrs. Farrell who ran a stopping place for cowboys and wanderers which she suspected we were!

This was the good crop era and the era of expansion in Cayley - both business wise and social wise.

We both sang in the choir, helped put on plays in the Odd Fellows Hall. Some of the leading actors and actresses were: Sid Lindstedt, wife Mildred, Mervyn Edey and Ann Shier.

The Pekisko Kids were in their hey-day and you could go to dances at Cayley and Meadowbank. If you were tired of dancing you could always go outside and watch the fights. None were serious but they were interesting.

The curling rink was built while we were there and because Walter had once curled in Carmangay he skipped, and the girls that could show the most strength played third.

During our stay in Cayley we had a fire which started in the back porch. The Cayley fire brigade broke all records getting to the scene of action and really did a marvelous job - not mentioning me going through Bea and George Houldens house and jumping over the fence and on over to the elevator to phone the fire brigade, in about two seconds flat. By the time the fire was subdued you could have taken a census of the town and the immediate surrounding district right there. The people were marvelous and everyone offered to help us out until our home was rebuilt. We stayed with Joe Bergh and his wife until the kitchen was rebuilt.

Otto and Louise Johnson started a store in the old Beaton Meat Market and from 1945 to 1949 when we left Cayley, this proved to be not only a fine little store, but a general meeting place in the evening, second only to Edey's service station, where the more prominent raconteurs held forth. Some even nicknamed Edey's service station "The Liar's Club", but as Walter was a prominent member I will not go into that.

During our stay in Cayley, because Walter had played ball for several years, he was induced to organize a team for the sports day. Walter described the team as "has-beens" and "never-waser's" but nevertheless a tournament was organized and while the baseball team did not do so well, it rained four inches that night and next day, so it was really deemed quite a success.

I was an active member of the W.I. and Walter belonged to the I.O.O.F. Lodge.

We left Cayley in March, 1949 when Walter was appointed Travelling Supt. out of Medicine Hat. We spent four pleasant years in Cayley. We now reside in Calgary.

Frankie Crowe

Denisons

"Denny" served with the King's Own Rifles during the Second War. Following his discharge the family spent a year at Cabri, Saskatchewan, and came from there to Cayley in 1947. Mrs. Denison's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clive Taylor, came to Cayley at the same time and remained for two years before moving to Turner Valley. "Pop" Taylor barbered in Cecil Kocher's service station office while he was in Cayley.

Denny managed the Northern Elevator which afterward became Pool No. 2. Mrs. Denison (Ione) taught in the Cayley school for fifteen years. All three daughters married while the family lived in Cayley. Pat is now Mrs. Jack Devine of Eskbank, Saskatchewan. Dot is Mrs. Ken Phillips of High River and Donna is Mrs. Lloyd Loree of Nanton. Denny retired from the elevator in 1965. In 1966 Ione and Dot purchased Roddie's Ladies Wear in High River, but the Denisons still maintain their home in Cayley.

Herbert O. Birkness

Herbert O. Birkness, wife Lucille (McIlveen) and three children came to Cayley from Rimbey in 1949 as Wheat Pool Agent, following Walter Crowe's transfer to Medicine Hat.

Both Herb and Lucille were raised in the Bawlf district. Herb was a grain buyer for the Federal Grain Company from 1928 to 1932 when he joined the Alberta Wheat Pool Company.

The children received most of their education in Cayley. Denise became a teacher and is Mrs. Maurice Arnott of Calgary. They have one daughter, Danielle. Daryl was an Airline Stewardess and is Mrs. Douglas Hamilton. They live in Toronto and have twin sons. Brian is with an Oil Company in the North.

Lucille was a member of the Rebekah Lodge and W.I. She passed away November 7, 1962. Herb is a member of the I.O.O.F. and has been Treasurer of the Cayley Credit Union for several years.

Herb married Ruth Couey in May, 1964. He will retire in 1971 after spending forty three years as a grain buyer.

Joe McFadden Family

Joe was the son of Robert J. McFadden of Ensign. He married Dorothy Dyer of Calgary and they moved to Cayley from Ensign in 1961 when Joe was transferred to the Alberta Pacific Elevator here.

Joe has worked with the Sports Club and the Scouts. They have four sons, Danny, Douglas, Robert and Brian.

Norman and Shirley Jackson

The Norman Jackson family consisting of wife Shirley and three daughters, Judy, Susan and Wendy moved into the Cayley district in December of 1949, from Ensign, Alberta. Transferred here by the Alberta Pacific Grain Co. as the local agent. At the time we were swept up by a local disease raging in the village - called Curlitis - and for the first week were unable to settle in or unpack as a local bonspiel had precedence over such mundane activities as setting up your bed or uncrating the dishes.

In 1952 a son Norman Douglas was born - between curling seasons. The three girls received all of their formal education at the Cayley school, where Doug is still in attendance.

Judy - after a six year romance, married Martin Tetachuck in 1961 and they now reside with their two small sons in Calgary. Susan married Hubert Petersen of High River in 1964 and they live in Calgary. They have a son, Curtis Orla. Wendy is employed by the Bank of Commerce at High River.

For several years I have been employed by Peerless Wood Products at Cayley, and Shirley is known to several generations of children, as the lady who drove them to school. Before School bus driving she was known as the fearless stock car racer and among other prizes, won a billy goat which she had a terrible time getting rid of.

Norman Jackson

Phil and Lois Schultz

Phil and his wife, the former Lois Ringstrom, were raised in the Weyburn, Sask. area and came to Cayley in 1962 from Calgary to take over the United Grain Growers elevator from Al Nesbit.

Phil was instrumental in re-organizing the flourishing Cayley 4-H Club and has acted as Leader.

They have four children, Allen, Garry, Kathy and Bruce.

In the spring of 1967 they left Cayley for High River where Phillip has taken over the Locker Plant.

There wasn't enough storage for the bumper crop of 1965.

Cayley United Church.

Last Chance School

The School was located on the hill on the south side of the road through Squaw Coulee on the homestead of Charlie Chaffee. It must have been built early in 1904 because it was open in that year when the Wambekes came to their homestead on the other side of the Coulee. The Wambeke children started school the day after their arrival. The teacher was Miss Richards (Mrs. Clyde Ellis) of the Cayley district. In 1905 a Mr. Sloane was the teacher. John Wambeke remembers these students in those days - Gladys and Elbert Couey, Ivan and Lester Wickson, Edith and Flossie Farrell, Ernie Bowerman, some of the Robertson children.

Off to School

Last Chance School, 1921

There was very little room on the hill top for a playground so in 1918 the Last Chance school and outbuildings were moved across the road where there was a wonderful schoolground around which trees were later planted. On the west end of this yard there was a stone (part of the Squaw Coulee rocks) about six inches high and three feet in diameter - a most important feature of this school. Here the little children stood to chant "I'm the King of the castle" - when the older ones were not using it for a lunch bar or homeplate for baseball or as a race course turn when it was necessary for the pupils to find out who had the fastest horse.

As schools became centralized and vans began to carry the pupils to Cayley it came time for the end of Last Chance and it was closed in 1939. The building was bought and moved to Harry Hays ranch and is used for a dwelling.

How Last Chance Got Its Name

When a school was first contemplated for the district the homesteaders to the west wanted it built on their side of Squaw Coulee. The settlers on the east were equally sure that the school should be built on the east side of the Coulee. School authorities came to help organize the district but they were unable to proceed because of the location deadlock. Finally they forwarded an ultimatum - that they would come once more "But this was the last chance".

The two factions got together and decided to build the school on the bench-land near the base of the west hill and they named it Last Chance!

Nat McLaren

In 1901 the old pioneer spirit brought my father and mother Nathaniel John McLaren and Jessie Anne (McEwen) to the west from Kincardine, Bruce County, Ontario.

They settled on a half section, one half of a mile west of Last Chance School.

There were three children, Stuart, Barbara and Ewen (Billie). Billie has been an invalid all of his life and only attended school a short time. Stuart and Barbara attended Last Chance until grade eight, then Stuart went to Cayley High School and Barbara to Central Collegiate High School in Calgary.

The closest neighbors were the Gordon Campbells, the Kurt Willamsons and the Jack Beamers, and our greatest pleasure was derived from camping trips and "pack" trips into the mountains.

In 1912 Dad's cousin, Mrs. Annie Cameron, came to our place for a two week holiday. She liked the country and stayed with us most of the time for 18 years. She purchased a quarter section of land northeast of Dad's half and Dad farmed it for her.

Mr. and Mrs. McLaren retired to High River in 1946 and Billie lived with them until their deaths; Mrs. McLaren in 1953 and Mr. McLaren in 1954.

Billie is now living in Deer Home, Red Deer, Alberta.

Stuart is a graduate civil engineer, owning his own company in Windsor, Ontario.

Barbara McLaren

Barbara is Dean of the Faculty of Food Sciences in the University of Toronto, (Dr. Barbara McLaren is one of seven economists going north in 1967 to help Eskimos turn houses into homes).

George Lindsay Farrell Family

My father, George Lindsay (Lin) Farrell arrived in High River on May 10, 1902 from Kincardine, Ontario. He brought with him two carloads of cattle and a driving mare. Nat McLaren had come from Kincardine earlier and had filed on adjoining homesteads for himself and for us. Our quarter was S.W. 4-18-29-W4 located six miles northwest of Cayley. It had running water on it which had been my father's only stipulation.

Mother, my sister Flossie and I arrived ten days after father, and he came to High River to meet us. The year 1902 was wet. Two weeks of heavy rain had overflowed the creeks and we weren't able to get out of High River. When we did reach the homestead we found that thirty head of our cattle had died of exposure. That was a severe blow for a homesteader.

Prairie fires were a terrible hazard for the first settler. As soon as a small smoke was seen everyone turned out to fight the fire by beating it out with wet gunny sacks and by ploughing fireguards.

Our first house was a three-roomed homestead shack. Church services were often held in this small home with the minister riding out from High River on horseback. The building of the methodist church in Cayley was of great importance to my father. He was also instrumental in having Last Chance School built in 1904.

We lived on the homestead until 1914. The house and barn still on the property were built by my father. Mother passed away in 1919, and father in 1942. Flossie (Mrs. Linsay Elliot) resides in Calgary. I, Mrs. Frank W. Wilson, live in Edmonton.

Frank Perault

Frank Perault and his mother lived in the Last Chance district for many years. Frank was well known as a violinist, playing for dances and entertainments around the country. His sister Agnes, Mrs. Jim Chronister, lived further west near the Lochsloy store, another sister, Mrs. Claude Mills, lived in High River.

Bowerman

Mr. Bowerman and three of his sons homesteaded all four quarters of Section 2-18-29-W4. The family lived on the S.E. quarter where the Ross Giles family now reside.

The Bowerman boys were Walter, Harry, Everett and Harold. There was also one daughter who married Don McDougall, a neighbouring homesteader. Walter Bowerman married Stella Myers.

All three sons lived at home with their parents while proving up on their homesteads, which was permissable in those days.

The Coueys'

Joseph Lincoln, Georgia Catherine, son Elbert and daughter Gladys arrived in Cayley in September, 1904 from Lebanon, Oregon. Dad brought a car of settlers effects; a jersey cow, driving horse for the new "Surrey with the fringe on top", dozens of jars of fruit as we knew there was no fruit grown in Alberta at that time, and our furniture.

Dad had come up to Alberta the spring of 1904 and as he had known the late C.C. Chaffee in Oregon, who had come up the year before, he landed at Cayley and was invited to stay at the Chaffee home to look the country over. He went as far north as Lacombe, but that had been a wet year and he saw the farm machinery mired down in mud, so he chose the Cayley district. He filed on a homestead south east of Cayley.

He returned to Lebanon and made arrangements to get away in September - and when the family arrived here the Chaffees' asked us to stay with them until we found a place to live. We went into Cayley and lived in a house owned by Nurse Murray for that winter. We lived upstairs and she down.

As there was no school in Cayley, Elbert and I walked a mile and a half to the school south of town. We found it very cold after living in Oregon. I remember that Elbert's ears were frost-bitten on the way from school one day, and Mother wrote to one of her sisters in Oregon and told her and she wrote back and asked if his ears would come off. Our first teachers were Mamie Caspell (the late Mamie Marshall) and her sister Edna Caspell. J.T. North was a teacher in that school too.

In 1905 Dad bought a farm south of Cayley. Peter Johnson and Hugh Johnson were our neighbours. The Clever family lived further south and as their three girls, Edith, Fern and Jennie drove to school, they picked us up on the way.

We sold the farm south of Cayley and bought one north of town and moved there about 1907. The Chaffees had moved up there too, so we were neighbours for a number of years. I remember we all attended the first Calgary Fair in 1907. Our sister Wilma was born in 1910 in that home and Dr. Brown was the attending doctor.

Elbert and I attended Last Chance school after this move and had some in-

teresting times. In winter Dad would hitch a horse to a stoneboat and take us as it was very cold in those winters, sometimes up to 50 degrees below zero.

We attended church in Cayley and all the women worked putting on church suppers. I think I was only about thirteen or fourteen when I sang in the choir, and even played the organ for a time. I took music lessons from Mrs. Frank Walker.

Dad and Mother went back to Oregon in 1918 to live, but Elbert stayed on the farm until his death in 1962. His son Eldon and family reside on the farm now. Wilma, now Mrs. Ray Howard, lives in Oregon, and I, Mrs. George Cope, live in Calgary.

Elbert Couey Family

In 1929 Elbert married Ruth Wallace of Portland, Oregon and they lived on the Couey home place. In September, 1930, their son, Eldon, was born in the High River Hospital. At that same time, Mr. and Mrs. John Pickerskill of High River became proud parents of a daughter, Kathleen.

On August 10, 1954 Kathleen and Eldon were married which was also Ruth and Elbert's twenty-fifth anniversary. In November, 1955 Kathleen and Eldon became proud parents of a daughter, Patricia Lynne. Then September, 1957, Wally Elbert arrived at the Couey home. November 1965, the stork arrived again with a little girl, Catherine Anne.

The Eldon Couey family now live on the home place and Eldon is also an auctioneer.

Eldon Couey

Homer Treadway and KurtWilliamson

Homer Treadway has the distinction of being the oldest living pioneer of this district. When Canada became a nation he was already two years and two months old! He was born in Nebraska on May 1st, 1865 - the last year of the Civil War. As a young man he ranched in the Bitter Root valley of Montana.

In 1900 Homer and his brother came to High River looking for land but, owing to bad weather, were unable to locate and returned to Montana. Four years later Homer and his brother Fred and their brother-in-law Kurt Williamson drove with team and wagon from Victor, Montana to take up homesteads on three quarters of section 9-18-29-W4 in the Last Chance district. They built a sod shack then Kurt and Fred returned to Montana for the winter.

In 1905 they brought Kurt's wife Lillie May, her other brother George and their mother Mrs. Treadway to the homestead. When they got off the train Kurt was very ill and was immediately quarantined with smallpox. He was the first patient to use the small isolation hospital, which was maintained for many years on the east side of High River. He told later how lonesome he was - no one but the doctor was allowed to see him for six weeks. After he had improved he bundled up at night and walked to the cemetery where he was sure he would not hurt anyone. His family had rented a house in town and spent the winter there.

After a few years George Treadway moved to Spokane. Fred Treadway and the mother died here and were burried in High River. A two story house was built on the farm and Kurt and Lillie May raised a family of three. Charlie and Fred married sisters from England after the 1914-18 war. Alta, now Mrs. Pete Lance, lives in northern Alberta.

Homer Treadway never married. He lived with his sister and Kurt and the

men farmed together. In 1964 he entered Glenbow Auxilliary Hospital, where he celebrated his 100th birthday in 1965. Many of his old friends and neighbors attended his birthday party. His 101st birthday was celebrated at Mayfair Nursing home, again with write-ups in the papers and his old friends to wish him well.

Major and Mrs. George B. Hall

According to the historical records of the North West Mounted Police, George B. Hall of Gananoque, Ontario joined the Force at Toronto on April 6, 1882 and was given the regimental No. 684. He was twenty two years old at the time. The files also show that he was allowed to purchase his discharge at Battleford on January 31, 1886. While no official record of his service remains, the place and date of his discharge make it likely that he served in defence of the settlers during the North West or Riel Rebellion of 1885. He attained the rank of major and spoke of being at Fort Macleod, and also being with the detachment at Banff, and of at one time taking part in one of the long marches.

Following his discharge George Hall returned to Ontario where he married and remained for several years. Following the death of his wife he and his son Gordon came west and in 1904 father and son homesteaded the N.E. and S.W. quarters of 32-17-29-W5.

Gordon Hall worked as a cowboy on the A7 Ranche for many years.

The second Mrs. Hall was born Elmina Hill in Clifford, Ontario and was a dressmaker. She came to Cayley in 1910 and made her home with the Eaglesham family for a year. She sewed for many families in the district and later leased Mrs. Fitger's boarding house and there married Major Hall, who was one of her boarders.

Not long after the marriage the Hall's moved to a farm near Whitla close to Mrs. Hall's brothers Bob and Watt and her married sister Emma. During the flu epidemic Emma died and her two small daughters, Doris and Esther became part of the Hall family.

Mr. and Mrs. Hall moved back to Cayley and purchased a building in which they ran a boarding house. In 1928 Mr. Hall passed away and Mrs. Hall sold the building to Mr. Clark who operated a barber shop. A relative of Clark's, Mrs. Royal, took care of the Clark children and took in dressmaking. The building is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Jackson.

Mrs. Hall bought a few acres of the Houlden property and built a house south on the main street, it is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. George Houlden. She did dressmaking until her sight began to fail. When she was no longer able to live alone she went to live with her daughter Doris, Mrs. T. Barraclift of Rimbey. Esther, Mrs. John Miller resides at Lumley, B.C.

Mrs. Hall died December 30, 1949.

The Wambeke Family

Charles and Veronica Wambeke and six children arrived in High River by train from Maysville, Oregon in October 1904. Their tickets were for Lacombe but the children were sick with dysentry, and when the train reached Righ River Charlie said to the conductor "This looks like a good place - throw my luggage off". They lived in a tent by the river while the children recovered. Mrs. Wambeke always said it was the smell of the limburger cheese which Charlie had in the lunch box that made them sick.

Charlie bought four lots and built a small cabin where Alec Burgess' house now stands. But he was a born trader and in six weeks had traded the cabin for a team and wagon and had purchased a half section of land in Squaw Coulee from Jim Creighton - the Indians had driven buffalo over a nearby precipice centuries before.

Creighton had built his shack at the top of the coulee hill. Charlie decided immediately that it would be better at the bottom so he hooked the team to it and jerked it down the hill. Young John, watching, wondered if they'd have a shack left by the time it got to the bottom.

John and Mary helped their father as he dug the well, by pulling up the buckets of earth and rock on a windlass arrangement. At one level he dug through three feet of great brown bones and as he sent them up in the buckets he shouted "They sure had big cattle here in those days". At thirty feet they struck a subterranean river of very cold water.

The old Macleod Trail with its dozens of ruts ran near their place and many Indians rode by. "Going to the Sun-Dance" one tribe going south told them. Squaws and bucks looked alike - same blankets - same braids - same pipe. But the squaws were a little bashful about smoking and would hide their pipes in their blankets. The bucks would hold their pipes out for a fill of tobacco. Charlie kept a can of Hudson Bay tobacco on hand just for the Indians.

Ranchers, cowboys and other travellers along the trail stopped at Wambeke's - especially during the cold winter of 1906-7 when horses often played right out in the crusted snow. The family would share their small shack with the travellers and cook them breakfast in the morning. One cowboy rode by with a ten gallon keg of whiskey on each side of his horse - ranch supply it seemed. One day they saw the amazing sight of a car with four men in it heading down the trail. It was an International with a brass-headed one-cylinder engine. It was the first car the young Wambekes had ever seen - and it scared all the horses on the trail. For their own transportation Charlie got a two-wheeled cart and Mrs. Wambeke used it to take the butter to town.

Charlie broke forty or fifty acres in 1905 and got seed from Texas but it winter-killed. He planted barley the next year and Charlie Thruin threshed it.

The children went to Last Chance School which was near-by, but was open only in the winter as the district boys had to work at home during the summer. John did the janitor work for two dollars a month. He also earned money when he was eleven raking hay for Art Wells and Garfield Sloane for Fifty cents a day.

The Wambeke boys had lots of practice riding half-broke horses, for as soon as they had a horse gentled their Dad would trade it off for another half-broke one - plus some "boot" no doubt.

The Squaw Coulee place was sold to George Campbell and the family moved to the Highview district, their house being just east of Bill Skory's present buildings. In 1908 Charlie filed on a homestead near Bow City and for three years he and John travelled back and forth by wagon running-gears and by saddle horse while Mrs. Wambeke and the other children held down the Cayley place. Charlie and John would stop over-night with people here and there along the trail. One night they stopped off at a bachelor's place - but they hadn't been bedded down too long until they realized the place was lousey - literally. They spent the remainder of the night sleeping in the wagon.

On October 23, 1910 the family moved from Cayley to Longview, and on October 24 another son, Jake, was born.

After many years in the Longview district Mr. and Mrs. Wambeke retired, spending the first two years at Nelson, B.C., then settling down in High River. Mr. Wambeke died in 1948 at almost 90 years of age, Mrs. Wambeke in 1955 at 82.

Fifteen children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Wambeke - one child died before they came to Canada. Of the six who came with the parents from Oregon, Mary is Mrs. W.M. Ecker of Kent, Washington; John of High River, Emma, deceased; Celia, Mrs. A.R. Olson, Drumheller; George of Kelowna and Tom of Edmonton Four were born at Cayley - Ann, now Mrs. Luke Kienan, Seattle; Agnes, Sister Mary Beatrice, associate professor in psychiatry at Ottawa; Liza, Mrs. Albin Harriman, High River; and Charlie, High River. Jake, Sam, Joe (deceased), and Julia, Mrs. L. Kirton were all born at Longview.

James William Campbell Family

James Campbell, farmer and Reeve of Riley Municipality, was born in Tilbury East, Ontario on February 12, 1856. He died in Calgary on October 28th, 1923.

Mr. Campbell was married to Janet Hodgkin who was born in Harwich, Ontario in 1858. Mr. and Mrs. Cambepll had two daughters: Ella M. married Mr. Garfield Sloane and Anna M. married Mr. Dave Halliday, and one son, Gordon W. Campbell.

James Campbell, Sr.

Mr. Campbell came west with his son Gordon in 1905 and farmed the north half of Sec. 35-17-29 until 1910, when Mr. and Mrs. Campbell took up a homestead in Bow Island, Alberta, living there until 1914, returning to Cayley until they retired to Victoria, B.C. in 1920. Mrs. Campbell lived the remaining years of her life with her daughter, Mrs. Garfield Sloane, where she died on June 20th, 1933.

Gordon Wilbert Campbell and his wife, the former Ina Hogg, carried on farming on his father's place until 1914, when he moved to his own farm, the homestead of Charles Chaffee, and the land still owned by Mrs. Ina Campbell. He died on this farm on March 20, 1933.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Campbell had one daughter Dorothy M. who married John L. Gardner of Merlin, Ontario and lives in Calgary, Alberta. They had one grandson, Dwight Gardner. John L. Gardner died in Calgary, July 10, 1965.

The Last Chance school was built on Mr. G. Campbell's land and remained there until 1918 when it was then moved to the land of George Moncrieff. The origin of the Last Chance school was derived from a dispute among ratepayers as to the location and was settled when the government placed it in the middle of the district. Mr. Campbell was secretary-treasurer of this school district for numerous years.

E. N. Sleeman 1904

My father settled in the Bitter Root Valley, Montana, arriving there in 1881. At the turn of the century the pioneer spirit again urged him to seek new lands for his family of boys. In 1903 he trained north as far as Edmonton viewing the country on the way. Dad returned home and in the spring of 1904 he again turned northward. His choice of property fell upon land in the Cayley District, West.

Before Dad left, it was arranged that I should meet him in Lethbridge. I caught two horses, one for a pack animal and set out. My route lead through Hell's Gate in the Blackfoot Canyon, a very primitive spot indeed. I crossed the Lewis and Clark Pass making my way down to contact civilization at Augusta, Choteau and Browning. I had to take down a barbed wire fence to cross the border and went through customs in Lethbridge. The inset is a copy of the slip received at that time.

Father purchased a buggy in Lethbridge and we travelled to High River, camping along the way. We stayed at Buck Smith's and were taken out to inspect land by Joe Wheeler. Dad bought section five on the Bar U Trail from Henry Smith on which there was just a line shack and three good springs. This was quite a popular half-way place for Bar U riders. Smith, an Englishman, owned four sections of land in one block. His home place was the Keystone, now the L. Nelson place.

The summer of 1904 I worked as a ranch hand for the C.C. It was owned at that time by Billie Cochrane. The late Tom Boulton and Stone Roberts were cattle foreman and farm boss with Maw as cook. I returned home in the fall and in the spring my brother Erwin came back with me. We brought four head of horses, a wagon and a few necessary household articles. That summer I lived in a tent and added an addition to the one-roomed shack. I broke 25 acres which yielded about thirty bushels of oats to the acre. While I was breaking 50 acres during the summer with a sulky plough and four horses, my brother was driving logs on the river for the Lineham Lumber Co.

Erwin remained with me till 1918 when he purchased land on Tongue Creek. He passed away in 1933.

We kept breaking land and in 1909 had a 100 bushed oat crop. The year of 1910 was specially dry. We harvested 200 bushels of oats all told. There was no seed in the country for the crops of 1911. However, we had a hold-over from the year before. Farmers for many miles came to buy seed oats at 30¢ a bushel. From an old memorandum the following are listed as having purchased seed: Bethard, Cleaver, Richardson, Jenkins, Cameron, Soderberg, McCullough, Hendry, Burgess, Windiate, Ralph, Rutherford, Cameron, Barker, Noble, Opal, Sweet, Forrett, Welsh, Alwood, Bachus, Riddle, Chaffin and McKinnon, all farmers well known throughout the district. One man purchased as little as six bushels.

The 1911 crop was hailed in June, but it made a new growth only to be snowed under on the 21st of September. It was really flat and had to be cut one way late into October. We threshed some in the Spring of 1912, and in several years later, threshing was finished in the spring.

In 1909 a pedlar was going through the country. We bought a 400 pound stove with high back and all the shiny trimmings. To go with the deal he "threw in" a cast iron fry pan, heavy blue and white enamel pots and pans, and a bright nickle kettle. Giving something extra was quite customary in those days. These substantial articles were still in use at the end of thirty years.

It was quite a chore hauling grain, usually in the winter. We went out early, loaded grain, changed gloves and set out for town. We arrived home with the fire low, hungry and tired, only to go through the same toil the next day. We hauled to Cayley over the years in better weather. Sitting on top of a Bain

Wagon and driving a four horse team was a very common sight. One thing about driving horses, neighbours always had time to stop for a friendly chat.

I recall seeing a very special team breaking sod. It consisted of two oxen, two mules, and two horses.

We went fishing in the Highwood quite often through the summer. We would catch many pounds of fish from 10 to 24 inches in length. We preserved them in a five gallon crock kept in the spring which ran the year round at 38 degrees. They were packed in layers with salt and came out as hard as rocks, even in the heat of summer. (The letter reproduced on this page is from the late Miss Mabel McLeod, matron of the High River Hospital in the twenties. It is a testimony to the quantity and quality of the fish).

HIGH RIVER
Alberta

Tuesday, July 12th

Dear Mr. Sleeman:

Please accept my thanks for the lovely treat of fish you left. It was plenty to give all the patients and staff a nice taste and I can assure you that I heard many remarks about them. I appreciate your kindness greatly, as do all my staff. I tried to get you by phone but was unable to do so and felt I must let you know that your thought was appreciated.

Truly yours,
(signed) Mabel McLeod

We hauled coal by team from a mine in Coal Coulee, loading it ourselves. There were two mines at that time south of the North Fork of the Highwood. One had been opened by John SexSmith in the late eighties. This was a very good type of coal. We also hauled lumber from the Stubb's sawmill near the head waters of Willow Creek.

There was good weather and bad. Sometimes the drifting snow was so severe the roads would be almost impassable for three or more weeks at a time. It has been 54 below for a day and night. It has been so mild the trees budded in January. The 1930's will always be remembered by those who experienced them. Grass was short and scarce. Crops, if any, were as low as five to eight bushels. Good dry cows sold for three cents a pound for several years. Some years were wet. When it did rain the small trickle in the coulee became a roaring river filling it from bank to bank. The bridges in Squaw Coulee have been wrecked or washed away.

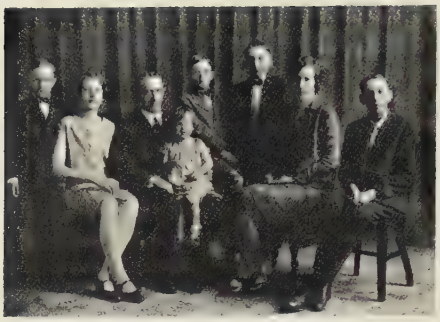
The house presently on the property was built in 1941. The original with a room added, still stands to the west. I was married in 1934 and have three children, June, Barrett and Florence.

In 1943 June was badly injured in a school van accident at Walker's Corner, being hospitalized for four months. As a result of that accident a provincial law was passed that all school vans should be painted yellow.

After fifty-five years working one place, picking rocks, watching the skies and blessing the good earth, I am retired in High River.

Jasper W. Stephenson

Jasper Stephenson was born in Northumberland, England in 1885. During his youth he stayed at home, helping his father on the farm, where they specialized in the raising of Clydesdale horses, Shorthorn cattle and Suffolk sheep.



Bill, Jennie, Herb, Archie, Jean, Jasper, Eleanor, Eddie.

Jasper Stephenson and prize Percheron, Prince. 1927.

As he had three brothers at home, he decided with a friend (Lee Rowell of Calgary), to emigrate to Australia. They both had relatives there who were continually writing home about the opportunities "down under", but when they went to Newcastle-on-Tyne to inquire about their passage they met Dr. Clark from Olds, Alberta. As Jasper had an uncle, John Stephenson, living at High River, Dr. Clark persuaded them to come to High River. This was in May, 1907.

The first summer in High River they worked for George McIrvine. That fall while binding wheat, the weather was very hot and the mosquitoes were so bad, he thought they were going to eat him; so Jasper took a drink from a slough. In a few days he was stricken with typhoid fever. At the same time a snow storm came up, leaving about two feet of snow. Mr. McIrvine bundled Jasper into a wagon and took him into High River. There was no hospital there then, but although Jasper was delirious, he was admitted into the Alberta Hotel, where he regained his health.

After the snow left, it was "Indian Summer". Mr. McIrvine sold his farm, so Jasper started to work for E.E. Thompson of California. Mr. Thompson had several granaries built where Atkinson's Garage is now located, and he bought grain from farmers in the district, and hauled it into High River. Jasper was busy shovelling wheat until March 1908. He then went to work for D.C. Macdonald, who came with his family to the Little Bow District in 1901. He spent the winter hauling wheat seven miles to High River, using four horses and two wagons - two trips a day.

In the spring of 1909, Dan Macdonald bought section 1, township 18, range 29, from Alex Thompson of High River. It had been fenced and thirty acres broken, and with the help of his "handy man", an Indian named Ed and his wife, they dug a well and built a two-storey house, and a small barn.

After that Jasper managed the "Little Bow" farm, while Mr. Macdonald spent most of his time at the Cayley farm. He had the Van Winkle, and later the Kitchen steam outfits break up more of the land.

The spring of 1911 was very wet and Jasper had a chance to rent a farm from Mr. Morse of Washington. The crop was rank and green, and it was snowed down before it was ever ripened. After it was finally cut one way; the bundles were so heavy and tangled together that stooking was very difficult. Before the threshers arrived, winter set in and stayed until spring. The crop wasn't worth threshing now, so he burnt it.

The spring was dry and it looked like another crop failure, so Jasper sold out and went to Calgary, where he worked for the Pacific Cartage Company.

On August 7th, 1912, he married Jennie Macdonald.

In September, 1913, Mr. Macdonald came to Calgary and persuaded Jasper and Jennie to move back to the farm at Cayley.

Jasper was happy to get back to the farm. In the winter of 1913-14, they put an addition on the house, built the barn larger and built a chicken-house, dug the well deeper. At that time wells were dug with a windlass and a pail. A large rock was in the way in the bottom of the well, and they pried it loose with a crow-bar - the water gushed in so fast the man almost drowned before they got him out. This well is 20 feet deep, and is still in use to-day and has never gone dry.

In the spring he prepared the ground to plant trees, which they ordered from Indian Head, Sask. They were planted in May 1916, and many are still living.

Jasper took an interest in the Last Chance school, and for several years he was one of the trustees, also Gordon Campbell, Ralph Chaffee, Herman Rasmussen, Jack Beamer and George Hogg.

All the family wanted to go to school on horseback, but it wasn't possible, so Bill, being the eldest got the horse. At first they went in an English cart, and an old horse, and later they went in a buggy. Eleanor was the driver - she was ready first, but she had to wait for Herbert, he had to change his tie, or blacken his shoes, etc.

In 1926 they bought the farm from Dan Macdonald.

Jennie and Jasper had six children:

William (Bill) who married Lena Moore, Tongue Creek District. They have three boys - Bruce, Warren and Roy, and now farm at Meadowbank.

Eleanor married Gordon Davis - ranching 30 miles West of Nanton, and they have one son, Rex.

Herbert joined the Highlanders army in 1940, and was overseas until 1945. In the meantime he married an English girl, Dorothy (Billie) Searle, who with their daughter, Terry, and son, David, came to Canada in 1946. He is now the Post Master at Okotoks. They have two Canadian children, Paula and Dan. Terry married Dr. Gary Carter of Okotoks, February 1966.

Archie married Kay Murdoch of the Meadowbank District - they have a family of two sons, Jasper and Ross, four daughters, Helen, Marie, Marian and Anne. They are on a ranch south of Invermere, B.C.

After Ed finished his High School in Vancouver, he came home to help his Dad. Jasper's health was failing, suffering with arthritis, and later with a heart condition, and passed away in July 1960. Ed now operated the farm alone, but he sold all the stock, except the cattle. In 1959, he invented a post-driver and had a Calgary Manufacturer make them for him. He sold 85 of these, so he is busy.

Jean, the youngest, married Johnny Green of Mazeppa. They had two sons, Larry and Lloyd, and two daughters, Teresa and Charlene. Jean passed away suddenly at the age of 33 - her death was two weeks later than her Dad's. Johnny sold the farm and bought one East of Nanton. A year later he re-married, to Rita Cameron, who was a nurse in the High River Health Unit. They have 2 children, Rodney and Ellen.

George Hogg

George Hogg, farmer and many years a Councillor for the Municipality of Riley, was born in Dalkeith, Scotland on April 27, 1867 and died at Cayley on February 27, 1942.

Mr. Hogg was a farm machinery salesman in Tara, Bruce County, Ontario for a number of years. He married Elsie Henderson of Tara and they moved west with their family in 1908. They settled on their farm west of Cayley, Alberta (N.W.¼ 28-17-29). Mrs. Hogg died July 26, 1927 at the age of 58.

Mr. and Mrs. Hogg had three daughters - Babe, Ina and Marion.

Babe was a milliner in Red Deer, Alberta and died in 1912.

Ina married Gordon Wilbert Campbell in 1910. They moved to their farm (NW¼ 34-17-29) in 1914 and this farm is still owned by Mrs. Campbell.

Marion married Ivor McNamee of Cochrane, Alberta in 1929. They farmed the home place until 1966 and then retired to High River, but still own the property.

The former neighbours of Mr. Hogg were Farrell Bros., Mr. and Mrs. Chas Powers, Mr. and Mrs. McConkey and Mrs. Barker and family.

Ina Campbell

The George Barker Family

My brother, George Barker, came west on a harvest excursion in 1910, and worked at Dan McDonald's across the road from Charles Chaffe's farm. In a year or two he sent to Quebec for his widowed mother and his five brothers and sisters. He rented a farm west of Cayley from Mr. Clark and there the family made their home. The children attended school at Last Chance, Miss Etta Armstrong being one of their teachers.

I came west a year later. Mother had written for me to go to Mr. and Mrs. Beaton's at the butcher shop across from the station when I arrived in Cayley. I did so and they made me very welcome. They were the first people I met in Cayley and they are dear friends to this day.

Mr. Rasmusen gave me a ride home. He was driving four horses on a great high grain-tank - or so it seemed to me - and I wondered how I would ever climb up to the seat, but with a little help I did. We had supper at Mr. Rasmusen's home and I met his kind wife and children. After supper he drove me home, about three miles further west.

For a few years I did housework for neighbors who needed help, and at other times kept house for the family while Mother did maternity or practical nursing. She was much in demand for this sort of work and made many friends.

The first automobile I saw around Cayley was owned by Mr. Charlie Chaffee. I was working at Chaffee's and we drove to a fair in Vulcan. All the horses we met or passed were frightened of the car. I believe there were about a dozen cars at the fair.

During our years at Cayley we lived on several different farms. Mother and I joined the Rebekah Lodge, and George and Frank the Odd Fellow's. We enjoyed the fellowship we had there.

Frank was in the first Great War and afterward he and his wife Flora (Banks) farmed in the Cayley district. They later moved to Carbon. Their only son lost his life as a pilot in the last war. Frank was in the last war too. He and his wife now live in Calgary.

Sidney and Lawrence moved to Turner Valley. Mother passed away there in 1931 and was laid to rest in High River. George and his wife live in the Dalles, Oregon, Will in Richmond, Quebec. Will, too, is a veteran of both wars. Sidney and his wife, and Jack who lived at Chilliwack, B.C., have all been laid to rest.

I, Gladys Barker, married James Warren in 1922 and have lived at Sexmith, Alberta since that time.

George Moncrieff

George Harrison Moncrieff came from Lachute, Quebec in 1908 to help his Aunt and Uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Nightingale of High River. They ran a dairy at that time.

Edith Bates came with her family from Nova Scotia in 1903 to live near Lacombe. She came to High River in 1912 and married George Moncrieff in 1913. They lived for a while on a farm east of High River then in 1914 purchased the farm northwest of Cayley, Sec 10-18-29-W4, from an Otto Bruhn of Sabula, Iowa.

They had seven children who all attended Last Chance and Cayley Schools. Marion is Mrs. Gordon Arnold of High River; Kenneth of High River who died in 1958; Cecil W. of Ossayoos, B.C.; John the Post Master at Sylvan Lake; Donald of Calgary; Jim who farms the old family place and Charlie of Calgary.

George passed away in 1951.

Sheane

Robert and Jenny Sheane and small daughter, Dorothy, came to the district in about 1916, farming the "King Place" in Squaw Coulee, north of the Last Chance School. A son, Lawrence was born there. In about 1922 they rented the Linc Couey half-section (where the buildings were directly South of the Jasper Stephenson buildings). Lawrence and Dorothy were the envy of all the Last Chance school children when their parents bought from Wilma Couey the two shetland ponies - "Babe" and her colt "Bessie". Babe was a tiny little grey. Bessie was larger and buckskin in color and later became known as the "Little Buck" of the Cayley district, where she passed from child to child for some thirty years or more.

Laurence and Dorothy Sheane.

In 1926 the Sheanes moved to Calgary. Bob is deceased. Mrs. Sheane lives at the Bow Valley Lodges, Dorothy (Twesley) does secretarial work and Lawrence is manager of Crown Zellerbach Paper Co. in Calgary.

Robert Wilfred Crawford Family

My father's name was Robert Wilfred Crawford and my mother's name was Bessie Blackburn Crawford. They moved to Cayley in the spring of 1918, from Palouse, Washington, to farm in Alberta. They lived on a farm four miles west of Cayley which they had bought from Herman Rasmusen. We left there in October and went to Los Angeles, California to live.

Our neighbors were the Lansings, Renn Maxwell, John McConkey, his sister Florence and their mother, also the Oscar Carlbergs who lived across the lake from Lansings. I learned to knit in Canada when a lot of the ladies were knitting caps and socks for the soldiers in World War I. The ladies met at the different homes and spent the afternoons knitting. I especially remember a session at the McClaren home where they had a contraption called a knitting machine. It worked alright if a person was smart enough to figure out how to run it.

We three older children attended Last Chance school and I went to High school in Cayley after passing the eighth grade that year, 1921. There were four of us in the eighth grade that year, Myra Lansing, Louella and Inez Carlberg and myself. My second youngest sister, Wilda, started her schooling at Last Chance. We rode a big old black work horse the three and a half miles to school in the summer and as many as could stick on were welcome to ride with we three and sometimes the total was seven. I have a picture with we three, Myra and Frances Lansing, and Ernie and Hilma Carlberg on faithful "Old Harry". In the winter we had a one horse cutter in which to go to school in. My Dad had built it and we were very proud of it. I was treating the other kids at school to a ride in it on the school grounds and turned too sharply and cracked one of the runners full length. That was one time I hated to go home from school.

Our home was just an old farm house, but it was clean and warm and we were all well fed and happy, and I might add, well dressed (with homemade dresses and coats made by my mother from hand-me-downs given to her by her sisters in the States).

We had an "Overland" automobile and it ran on occasion. We always went to the Chautauqua when it came to Cayley and we also went to town for the big celebration on the Queen's Birthday. The one time I especially remember was when "Old Harry" won the Slow Race. The owners of the horses, or whoever had been asked to ride the horse, had to change horses and of course he tried to make that horse run as fast as possible. The last horse in was the winner. One of the Rasmusen boys rode "Old Harry", I think it was Carl.

We had neighborhood dances, mostly at the Carlbergs and Rasmusens, because they had larger houses. We had a barn dance at our place before the hay was put in the mow and my Dad hauled the hayrack up under the big door and piled bales of hay up to make steps, so the people could get into the hay mow. We had a pump organ and my Dad would load it in the sleigh in the winter time and we would all go to Rasmusens for an all night dance. We went home after it got daylight in the morning. Carlbergs had a piano and someone would chord with Frank Perrault who played the violin. This was our main recreation and it was good clean fun and a good place to learn to dance. In the summer time we would go to Carlbergs and have a big baseball game, the men and the older kids.

My parents have both passed away and are buried at beautiful Forest Lawn Cemetery in Glendale, California.

Bernice--Mrs. E.L. Phoenix lives at Cottage Grove, Oregon. No family.
Esther--Mrs. W.R. Hubert, Anaheim, California, has two married children and two grandchildren.

Wilda--Mrs. Art Blake, Glenoma, Wash., two sons and five grandchildren.
Elaine--Mrs. J.L. Byington, Tacoma, Washington, has one son.
Robert M. Crawford--North Bend, Washington, has four daughters.

Bernice Crawford Phoenix

Robert W. Fletcher ("Cap")

Born in Arnprior, Ontario, Robert W. Fletcher came to the Cayley district in 1919, following discharge from the Canadian Army with which he served Overseas in the First World War.

He enlisted with the 189th Battalion in Quebec, where up until then he had been engaged in the lumber business at Sayabec. He went Overseas with the rank of Major, later transferring to the 5th Canadian Mounted Rifles, where he reverted to the rank of Captain to get to the Front Lines.

He was severely wounded in action in 1917, and hospitalized for eight months. On his recovery he was appointed Ship's Adjutant and served in this post until early 1919, making many trips across the Atlantic returning troops to Canada. It was during one of these trips he met up with a fellow officer from Alberta, who aroused his interest in the West. Although his plans were to remain in the Army, so greatly was he impressed by the glowing description of this free life in the Foothills Country, he finally decided to give up the restrictions of Army life and head West.

In August 1919, Bob Fletcher with his half-brother Wallace Costello arrived in High River and later purchased the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Allan Grant. Allan Grant was a brother of Mrs. Lionel Fitzherbert. Here Bob brought his English war-bride, Rosa Burrell of London England.

Planning originally to develop a Registered Hereford Ranch, the brothers purchased the nucleus of their herd from the renowned Mace stock and a herd sire from the Collicut Ranch at Crossfield. However, following the disastrous winter of 1919-20, with its devastating results, the bottom dropped out of the cattle market. Eventually, seeing no future in it, the herd was sold, and Bob and his brother turned to mixed farming. This venture among other things, led to the purchase of ten milk cows. Having lived in the comfort of town life all their lives, totally inexperienced in farming, with no idea of what even a doubletree consisted of - the going was plenty tough! Neither Bob or his brother knew how to milk. For the first while they took turns - one would milk while the other restored his aching muscles. This went on for hours, while the cream separator was in action at all hours of the day! If space would permit, many other anecdotes could be related regarding the initiation of these two Easterners, into the rigors of farming in that day and age.

In 1924 Wallace gave up and moved to the States and Bob took over his share of the farm. In 1926, following the death of his wife, he rented the farm and took a position with the Soldiers Settlement Board as Field Supervisor, working out of Red Deer.

In 1928 he remarried. Returning to the farm in 1931, he farmed actively until 1950. In semi-retirement he chose to continue living at his farm home, not wishing to leave the countryside he grew to love so well, nor his fine herd of Herefords. The colorful flowers bordering the trim lawns of the home, gave pleasure to all who passed by on the Meadowbank road. He found the description given by his fellow officer, to be indeed a reality, and never regretted his decision to come west.

In June 1961, "Cap" as he was known by his associates, died suddenly from a heart attack. He was active until the hour of his death.

Wallace Costello died one year later.

The following year the farm was sold to Donald Smith. His son Wayne and wife Diana now reside there and operate the place.

Mrs. Fletcher lives in High River.

The family consists of three daughters - Dolores (Mrs. Alan Watson) now in England, Moya (Mrs. Douglas Allanson) of Vancouver Island, and Margaret (Mrs. Jack Hodson) of Vancouver, B.C.

James Irvin and Caroline Green

Mr. Green came to the Cayley district from Illinois to work for Ed Kitchen about 1920. In 1922 he rented Roy Kitchen's place across the road and a Miss Caroline Brown came to keep house for him. In about 1924 they moved to the Campbell place, south of Chaffee Corner and were married. It was quite odd that Irvin (Jimmie) Green had for his first wife a Miss White and for his second wife a Miss Brown. They later moved to the Lovens' place near Sears, west of Connemara.

Caroline ("Car" as she was known far and wide) had been a titled lady in Scotland before coming to Canada and had been engaged to marry a Doctor. The night before her wedding she suddenly changed her mind, slipped away with her share of the family jewels and began an adventure which took her through many countries of the world - even across the Sahara on a camel - until she found herself in Canada with no more money. In desperation she hired on as a housekeeper - gradually learning to cook from her various employers. Her sunny nature and great wit won her many friends. She died of pneumonia in 1937 and Jimmie passed away in 1950. Both are buried in Nanton.

Ivor McNamee Family

Father came west in 1887 from Manitoba and mother came with her parents in 1887 also. They were the first couple married in Cochrane. They were married in 1891 by Rev. Herdman, in the absence of Rev. Charles Gordon (Ralph Connor).

I came to Blackie in 1925 and to Cayley in 1927 where my brother, Grafton, and Art Smythe had a garage. A sister, Genevieve, came to Cayley in 1929 and taught in the Braemar School in 1929-30. She married Len Watt and moved to Nanton, living there for some years before moving to Prince George, B.C. where she died in 1957. Grafton retired from Taylor, Pearson & Carson in 1965 and lives in Calgary.

I worked for the Dept. of Public Works for many years and then joined the Army in 1916. After discharge, I went back with the Department.

I married Marion Hogg, daughter of George Hogg, and we farmed west of Cayley where we lived until retiring to High River in October, 1965, with the exception of a short stay in Nanton. I served for two years on the Municipal Council. Marion was a choir member in the Cayley United Church for many years.

We have two sons, Bruce who resides in Calgary and Murray at home. Marion and son Bruce both started school in the Last Chance School.

Ivor McNamee

The Lymans

Oren Lyman was born in 1913 at Almira, Washington, and in 1914 came with his parents to the Vulcan area where his father homesteaded. Oren returned later to the States and in 1938 married Miss Sophie Thomas of Denver. Oren and Sophie moved to Cayley in 1946 and purchased the Nat McLaren farm where they have resided since. They have two sons, Wayne and Lloyd.

Watchhorn Family

Wallace and Florence Watchhorn came from Morin Heights in 1926 and settled near the Last Chance School NE½-29-17-29-4. They moved to Turner Valley in 1929 when the Oil boom was on and Mrs. Watchhorn owned a restaurant for eight years. They lost their home by fire in 1931. They moved to Calgary where Mrs. Watchhorn died in 1963.

Their son Garfield was married in 1933 and moved to his folks farm where they still live and they have one son, David attending University at Edmonton.

Garfield had three sisters: Thelma at Turner Valley, Bernice at Devon and Geraldine at Okotoks.

Leta Arnold

Ross Giles Family

Ross Giles and his family moved to the Ralph Chaffee place on April 19, 1958. Ross grew up near Marwayne and later received a B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Alberta. His wife, the former Muriel Ostrom, came from Granum and was a Home Economics teacher. The family consists of five boys - Donald, Dale, Lee and Lloyd (the twins) and Murray.

In order to turn the cattle out to pasture sooner, Mr. Chaffee offered the Chaffee branding irons if another brand could be registered with the half-diamond in a different place. Consequently the Giles brand is Half-Diamond H R.

Braemar School

A.B. McDonagh was Secretary Treasurer and Walter Brown and P. Beisegel

Braemar School, 1913

Braemar School, teachers and pupils.

Trustees when Braemar School District No. 990 was organized in 1909. Taxes in 1909 were eight cents an acre. Other Braemar officers over the years were Lorne Tiffin, H.D. Johnson, J.A. Wickens, W.R. Barker, Fred Edey, Mrs. J. Wickens (who became the first and only lady trustee), H.A. Palmer and T.K. Scobie, W.E. G. Holmes of High River was the first auditor.

Braemar teachers were E.J. Taylor, Mr. Broad, B. Taylor, E. MacDonald, Miss H.A. Kyle, Miss Gates, George Cochrane, E.L. Christie, Miss M. McRae, Miss McInnes, Miss Steen, Miss Loucks, Miss Jean McDougall, Linwood Walker, Miss Marjory Barker, Miss Genevieve McNamee, Miss Lois Lytle, Miss Helen Fowler and Miss Jean Gilchrist.

Braemar School was closed in 1920 and a horse-drawn "van" transported the pupils to school in Cayley. The van was a democrat with a canvass top driven by Mr. Brockway. In winter a bob sleigh was used with straw in the bottom of the box for the children to sit on. Among those transported were Gerald, Ed and Ned Baker and Stuart Tiffin.

When the big School Division was organized Braemar pupils were once again

L to R Norman Edey, Daphne Gardner, Bill Wickens, Annie Walker, Neil Walker, Stuart Tiffin. Braemare School, about 1924.

vanned into school at Cayley. The school itself was moved to Cayley and became the school "Shop" for Manual Training. When the present school was built the old Braemar school was moved by Don Beaton to the street on the north of the village and remodelled into a home.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Walker

My father, Peter Walker, came originally from Loch Fyne, Scotland to Crinan, Ontario. He taught school there for three years and then came west in 1902 to take up a homestead. His nephew, Hugh Johnson, came a short time later and homesteaded beside him. There was nothing but the stockyards in Cayley when he first settled so supplies were bought in Nanton. When Cayley built up, the homestead situated at Connemara was half way between the two and he did business at both towns.

Range cattle were a constant threat to homesteaders hay stacks and Dad kept coyote hounds to drive them away from the stacks.

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Walker 1928

Mother had been a dressmaker in Edinburgh Scotland and went from there to dress-make and keep house for her brothers in Chicago. On the way she stopped off at Dad's home in Ontario where she met him. In 1907 she came west and she and Dad were married in Calgary. On her 90th birthday she told of the first time she was asked to bake a cake for a social occasion. In Edinburgh cakes were bought at one of the many fine cake shops so her experience in baking her own was slight. She selected a recipe for a plain cake but when it came from the oven it didn't look quite adequate so she baked another just the same and put it on top of the first. Dad looked over the result and suggested she bake a third cake and add it to the other two. When the cake was cut it looked so magnificent that she didn't recognize it for her own!

Dad was trustee of the Braemar school for several years. He was Secretary-Treasurer of the first Presbyterian church in Cayley and an elder in the continuing Presbyterian church after the 1925 union. Mother was a life member of the Presbyterian Woman's Missionary Society and a long-time member of the Presbyterian Ladies Guild of Cayley.

Dad died in 1936 and Mother in 1966. My brother Neil and his family live on the original homestead. I reside in Calgary.

Annie Jensen

Old Time Picnic

Peter Walker, Bill Milroy, Jim and John Thompson, Mrs. Walker and Annie.

H.D. Johnson

Hugh D. Johnson was not quite seventeen when he came from Ontario via harvest excursion to join his Uncle Peter Walker at Cayley in 1902. He filed on the SW-6-17-28-W4, and it was held for him until he was eighteen.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Sr.

He worked for Fred Ings at the old stopping place in the spring of 1903, and lived in the N.W.M.P. barracks.

He worked for Fred Ings at the old stopping place in the spring of 1903, and lived in the N.W.M.P. barracks, which the detachment had vacated the previous year.

Except for the stockyards, Cayley didn't exist so Hugh and Peter went to Nanton for mail and supplies. Only one

house was visible on the road between the homestead and High River, and that was Hasken's a few miles south of the town.

Hugh's homestead was just off the old Macleod Trail and bands of Indians passed by periodically with horses and travois, papooses on their mother's backs. Hugh only remembers one Indian stopping, and all he wanted was a match!

In the fall of 1903 Hugh pitched bundles and roved the water wagon on Tasker and Shaw's threshing outfit, probably the first in the country. It was a Case steam engine and a 32 inch cylinder Case separator. The men on the crew were paid $1.75 for twelve hours work. They slept in a tent and boarded at the farms where threshed. He recalls that prunes were a prominent dessert item.

It was mostly stack threshing- hard steady work. So steady that some of the men would deliberately fork the bundles in too fast and plug the separator to get a brief respite. The jobs were scattered as grain fields were literally few and far apart. Much of the time was spent moving, often during the night. Half of one night was spent moving from George Robertson's to Charlie Shortt's, where the men flopped on the floor for a couple of hours sleep before going to work.

The first job was at the Shaw place east of High River. Then they threshed the Little Bow district, on up the Highwood to the Spalding place (later Weiser's), a number of scattered jobs down to one mile south of Nanton, west of Cayley in Rocky Coulee, and out to the Heartz Ranch - now the MacMillan Colony.

Hugh's brother, Neil Johnson, came west in 1904 and worked with Hugh for a time before taking a homestead in the Reid Hill district. Three years later their father and mother and younger brother Arthur also came to the district and lived for two years in the Couey homestead house across the road from Hugh. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson Sr. also homesteaded at Reid Hill, Arthur's homestead was at Steveville.

School taxes were four cents an acre in 1904, five cents in 1905 and for some years on, but even at these rates they were hard to collect. Many bachelors felt that schools were of no personal benefit and were reluctant to pay. Hugh was given the job of Tax Collector and the first year brought in a greater amount in arrears than in current taxes.

Hugh Johnson has what is probably a record in School Board service. He was elected Secretary-treasurer of Braemar School, and served, with one year's absence from 1913 until 1938 when the big unit was formed. He then served as representative on that Board for a further twelve years - thirty six years service in all. The years have slipped by and Mr. Johnson has been called upon on several occasions to assist pupils of earlier days to get their old-age pensions, through proof of age from the old school records which he still retains.

The first Mrs. Johnson was the former Miss Mary McRae who taught school at Braemar. Illness claimed her life a year after their marriage.

A few years later Hugh journeyed to Scotland to claim Miss Isobel Clinton as his bride. Her scottish charm and kindly understanding brought Mrs. Johnson many friends during the years she lived and served in the Cayley community.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson were active members of the Presbyterian and later the United Church, holding offices all through the years. When they retired to Nanton in 1961 Mr. Johnson was the homesteader remaining longest on his original homestead.

Their daughter Ann and her husband, Dennis Dunn took over the operation of the farm. Ann, who was an R.N., nursed in the High River Hospital for several years. Their children are Maureen, Hugh and Jennifer. Ann passed away in January, 1966, at the age of 38. Her mother had predeceased her in July, 1965.

Dennis and family make their home in High River.

Iris Keller

John A. (Jack) Wickens

Jack Wickens came with his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Wickens, and his sister Harriet, to the Cayley district in 1905 from Tupperville, Ontario. He took up a homestead three miles west of Silver Lake, near his brother's homestead.

In 1912 he married Ettawanda Palmer, a school teacher from Scotchtown, N.B. In 1918 he sold his homestead to Bud Brockway, and bought land from Bill Brewster, to be near school for the children. His son William still farms this land. This was formerly the homestead of Bill Beisegal.

Jack owned and ran one of the first steam threshing outfits in the Cayley district in the early days, and was one of the first farmers to buy a combine. This was in 1928, and the same combine was still in use in 1965. However, his son Bill retired it that year.

Braemar School was situated on this land, and the three children attended it until it was closed in 1940.

As were all the Wickens', Jack was very musical, playing trumpet or any brass instrument, and was instrumental in organizing and playing in the various Cayley Bands and orchestras. He was also an accomplished singer and participated in various quartets and choirs.

For a short while, an uncle of Jack and George Wickens, Tom Wickens and his family lived and worked in the Cayley district.

Jack Wickens died in 1951, and his widow now resides in High River. Bill married Margaret Robblee, and they are believed to be the first Cayley-born couple to marry. They have a son Jack who in 1966 bought the Hugh Johnson homestead, and now farms with his dad. Their home is one of the oldest homes built in Cayley. It was built on the north-east corner of the village, and owned by Mrs. Crawford, then moved to the farm and remodelled in 1938.

Patricia married Ray Peterson from Gladys Ridge, and they live on their farm two miles east of Cayley, the homestead of Charles Gardner. They have three children, Ross is at home - starting in the dairy business with his father. Gail, the youngest, is still in school in town; and Faye is married to Ray Switzer who is apprenticing to be a grain buyer for the Wheat Pool.

Bernice married Tom Humphrey, also from Gladys Ridge. They live in Calgary, where Tom is Principal of Ernest Manning High School. They have five children, all in school - Greg, Brent, Cary, Jeff and Karen.

Mr. and Mrs. Wickens were active in the Cayley community. Jack was an original member of the Alberta Wheat Pool, and always interested in the various co-operatives. He served several terms on the board of the Municipal Hospital in High River, and was a member of the Board of Cayley United Church for many years. Mrs. Wickens interests were in the U.F.W.A., and in the Ladies Aid - holding offices in both organizations for many years.

Margaret Wickens

Willard R. Barker Family

I came west on a harvest excursion with my younger brother Leonard and a cousin, Chester McCutcheon from Oromocto, New Brunswick. We arrived in Cayley on July 22, 1907.

Chester is now farming at Athabaska Landing. My brother stayed at Cayley for a time, and we both worked at the Lineham Lumber Camp that first winter. The next spring I sorted logs on the lake at Coeur D'Alene, Idaho but was back at Cayley in time for harvest. In 1910 I went to Vancouver and worked for what is now T. Eaton's. I was back in Cayley the next year, and in 1912 bought the Plummer place south of town, where we now live. My neighbors then were the Fred Knupps, Bert Widdup and his Dad and the Beisegel's. Cayley was quite a place at that time with six or seven stores. During the summer of 1912 I worked as ploughman on Roy and Ed Kitchen's steam ploughing outfit. The winter of 1920 and 21 I worked on cattle trains between Calgary and Vancouver. On one trip we were stopped and turned back for two days by snowslides at Field.

I bought my first car, a Mitchell, in 1918. Ivy Scobie and I were married in 1922, and we built our present home in 1924. Most of the trees I had planted in 1918, except the evergreens which we put in in 1935.

For several years I was secretary of the U.F.A. H.C. Wingate was president at that time, and we did a lot of bulk purchasing. In 1919 we bought over seventy carloads of baled hay. We brought in coal from Drumheller which we retailed right off the cars, and we also brought in carloads of apples each fall. Each member bought the number of boxes of apples which he thought would do his family for the winter.

I acted on the Braemar School Board for a number of years. In 1950, with R.H. Brockway I helped organize the Cayley Rural Electric Association. I have been secretary of the R.E.A. ever since.

In 1941 we bought the quarter of land to the south from Mrs. J. Wickens for $41.00 per acre. When I bought the home quarter in 1912, the price was $22.00 per acre. Warren who has been farming with me since 1948 bought the S.W. quarter of 12 in 1962.

Mildred, Warren and Faye are still at home. Our second daughter, Joyce, Mrs. Arthur Wilson resides in Saskatoon. Faye is on the staff of the Bank of Commerce in High River.

W.R. Barker

Willard was one of the last farmers in the district to switch from horses to tractor.

Willard Volney Brockway

In the spring of 1917 Philip Brockway, better known as Bud, and a friend decided to go to Canada to work and see the country. They came to New Norway, Alberta where they found work. The friend stayed for awhile and then returned to Minnesota. Bud came to Cayley. In the fall of 1917 Bud wrote to his father telling him what a wonderful country Alberta was. So his father, Willard Volney Brockway, decided to come and see for himself. While here he was taken with the country and its prospects and bought a half section of land two miles south of Cayley (where his grandson, R. Irvin Brockway now lives). W.V. Brockway was born at Le Center, Minnesota and got his education there as a school teacher.

In his early years in Minnesota he had driven stage coach out of St. Peters and remembered well when the notorious James Brothers robbed the bank in Northfield and some were caught. He also taught school and operated a registered herd of Holsteins on the farm overlooking Lake Volney. This had been his grandfather's homestead and the lake was named after his grandfather.

In the spring of 1918 he left all of this and with his son Richard (Dick) and two car loads of possessions, they left by train for Cayley.

He was a great lover of horses so brought with him some of his best animals. Here he joined son Bud and took up residence on his newly acquired farm south of Cayley. Mrs. Brockway and son Marvin arrived at a later date.

It was all very difficult for the family to leave a beautiful wooded area with numerous lakes and come to the bald prairie and to strike the dry year of 1919. But they struggled along, as every one did, and he acquired some cattle and was really inspired with the foothills country for summer grazing so he bought three quarters south of Turner Valley.

In 1918 he helped his sons, Bud and Dick, acquire the half section west of Connemara, where Bud lived until his death in 1959. It is still owned by Bud's family.

In the fall of 1918, their only daughter, Mrs. Oscar (Lillian) Olson, her husband and daughter, being lonely for the rest of the family, came to Cayley. She passed away in 1922 and Edna was raised by her grandparents. She now lives in Calgary.

There being a necessity for threshing machines, he bought a steamer, "Cock of the North", and a separator and for several years threshed for many people and sometimes late into the fall and winter, using bunk car for sleeping the men and a cook car for eating in.

At the Brockway house no one went hungry or cold, no matter color or creed, so consequently, many slept and ate there for free.

As his cattle herd grew larger and he needed more pasture, he joined the Sheep Creek grazing lease and pastured cattle in the Forest Reserve where in the fall a roundup was necessary. He and some of his sons always took part in this enjoyable task.

In 1932 he rented the farm to Dick and Marvin and moved to the ranch at Turner Valley.

Mrs. Brockway was a quiet, hard working woman, very devoted to her family and always ready to help anyone in need. She passed away in 1948.

Mr. Brockway liked spirited horses and at the age of 82 was mowing hay when a horse kicked him, breaking his leg. But this didn't keep him away from duties very long. He was soon back riding horseback again. He lived on the Ranch and continued the cattle business and riding horseback, cutting, etc. until moving into Turner Valley in 1957 where he and Edna lived until he passed away in 1960 at the age of 92.

Mary Brockway

Richard and Mary Brockway

Richard H. Brockway (Dick) was born on his father's farm in Le Center, Minnesota where he received his education and worked on the farm. In the spring of 1918 he left this life and with his father, W.V. Brockway, came with two carloads of family possessions to the Cayley district where his father had bought a farm two miles south of Cayley.

Here he stayed and worked with his father and in 1918 his father helped him purchase a quarter section of land. Then in 1926 he purchased another quarter where Mr. Dahms lived across from the Braemar school.

In the spring of 1930 Mary Freeman who was raised on a homestead in the Rimbey country came as help to the Brockway residence. In November, 1931, she and Dick were married.

In 1932 W.V. Brockway and family moved to the ranch at Turner Valley and rented the farm at Cayley to Dick and Marvin who farmed together until Marvin married in 1938 and moved to his own farm in the Meadowbank district.

The thirties were not easy years and like all the rest Dick found it hard to make ends meet. So the fall of 1938 he bought a truck and went into commercial trucking in connection with his farm. This meant very long hours but proved successful and in 1946 he sold his truck but continued farming.

Dick was one of the main workers to form the Cayley R.E.A. in 1951 and served as president for several years.

In 1948 he bought the farm where R. Irvin Brockway now lives, from his father, and in 1949 built the new house.

Richard Irvin Brockway, son of this marriage, was born in High River, educated in Cayley and took a year at Olds School of Agriculture. He then spent several years in the oil fields, where he was a driller, when he decided to come back to the farm and with the help of his father purchased the Ed. Kitchen place east of Cayley which he still owns and farms. He married Dawna Cole, a school teacher, in 1953, and they have three children, Robyn, Rhonda and Ryne, all attending Cayley school.

Lois Marie, the eldest daughter, was educated in Cayley, took a stenographers course and was employed with Royalite Oil Co. in Turner Valley and Texas Gulf Sulphur Co. in Okotoks. She married Barry Barkley who is employed with Hudson Bay Oil Co. They have two children, Janice who attends school in Cessford, where the family lives, and Larry will start school next year.

Betty Lou received her high school in Cayley and took nurses training at Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary, where she graduated in 1963. She went from there to St. Marys Hospital in Camrose and has continued her work. She married Bernard McDermott and they have one son Darrin.

Dick passed away in 1961 and Irvin continued to farm with his mother until 1965 when she moved to High River. Irvin rented the home place and moved south of Cayley.

Mary Brockway

Fred Barker's

My Mother and Dad, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Barker came to the Cayley district on March 14, 1918. I was their only child, at that time being 12 years of age.

They settled on the NW quarter of 5-17-28-W4, one mile east and two and a half miles south of Cayley. The buildings consisted of a three roomed shack and a barn for eight head of horses. Water had to be pumped by hand and it was several years before we could afford an engine for this purpose.

The first four or five years were very hot and dry. By about the 22nd of June wheat which had made a brave start was burned and shrivelled. It was less than six inches high.

In 1920 Dad wanted to get at least enough wheat for seed for the next year so he fixed a platform on his grass-mower which was drawn by two horses, and made a wooden rake patterned after a garden rake. He cut the wheat with the mower and I had to walk behind and pull it off the platform with the wooden rake. He had many rake teeth to repair in the evenings because I would accidentally hit the sickle with the rake. Later the piles of wheat stalks were gathered up on a bundle rack and stacked in the yard to be threshed.

The extremely dry weather ended about 1924 and things began to improve.

I remember a runaway experience about 1922. Mother and I were driving a team and democrat to Nanton. About five miles from Nanton one of the traces became unhooked. When I got out to hook it up again the team bolted. One horse took the bit in her teeth, leaving Mother powerless to stop them. She stayed in the democrat almost all the way to Nanton until the team piled the democrat up against a telephone pole and broke loose. Some neighbors took me into Nanton, and there I found Mother, a bit shaken-up but safe, calmly setting about getting the liveryman to repair the damage to harness and democrat. She was brave enough to drive that same team and democrat back home in the evening, too.

Mother and Dad were strong supporters of the Cayley Presbyterian church in the early days. Dad farmed the same land until 1952. He died in 1953, and Mother in 1960.

Marjorie Matthews

Mosquito Creek School

Mosquito Creek School was built in 1909 on the NE 8-17-29-W4. The two-acre site was donated by Coolige and Drumheller. One of the early teachers was Miss Noble (Mrs. Lindsay Caspell). Among the first pupils were Byron Brown, Frances Gribble, Jack Johnson, Galen, Monty and Wynfield Alwood, Ella and Carl Kirkpatrick, Earl and Murray Caspell, Laverne Young, Dorothy Shaw, Swank, Hoskins and Gilchrist children. Wm Caspell was secretary-treasurer.

The school was closed for a number of years and during that time ranchers bringing cattle to the stockyards often used it as a stopping place for their riders.

Among the families whose children attended the school were Dotys, Drumhellers, Comstocks, dePaolis, Gilchrists, Crowes, Caspells, McPhersons and Listers. After the Cayley Hutterite Colony was established pupils from the Colony attended Mosquito Creek until their own school was built. The last year the school was open only two children attended - Dolly dePaoli and Ralph Doty. Mrs. Henderson was the last teacher.

When the District joined Foothills Division the Mosquito Creek School was sold and moved to the oilfields for a church. It has been moved again and now serves as a church in Longview.

The Norman Brown Family

The late Mr. Norman Brown came West from Kansas in 1903 to visit his sister, Mrs. O.C. Williams (Williams Coulee, west of Nanton, was named after them). Mr. Brown filed on his homestead in 1903 west of the rock spring in the gore - (a public water right and also the biggest dipping vat in 1904 for "Mange on the range"). It was located on the correction line between Section 31-16-29-W4 and Section 37-16-1-W5. A pipe line from the rock spring supplied the dipping vat with water and also an old Indian travois trail by-passed the spring in the gore.

Mrs. Brown and son, Byron followed West in 1905, arriving in Calgary on April 3rd, inquired what time the south bound train would leave Calgary and no one knew. Someone advised her to wait and follow a certain group of young men who were going to Nanton to form a Lodge.

It was evening when she arrived and not until next day did she really see her new home. Her husband had obtained a homesteader's permit to take out logs from the H L Timber Camp at Johnson Creek and then had them sawn into lumber at the H L Mill (later Camp's Mill). The shingles he had used for siding bothered her most, reminding her of the portable wash houses in Kansas. She never revealed her disappointment to her husband though.

Answering a knock one day at the door she became paralized with fear as there stood a real red-skinned Indian, braids, knife, rifle and all. The conversation was as follows:

"Where boss?"
"Right out behind". (not wishing to reveal he had gone for the day).
"Old Sam hungry", he replied.
"How much will you give me to feed you?" she questioned.
"Pay next time", was his answer.

One day Mrs. Brown drove to Nanton with team and buggy to meet her sister. On returning home across the prairies a fence crossed her trail. What a dilemma! What would she do? She decided to walk for tools to take down the fence that crossed the trail. Her sister, with fancy shoes, wouldn't stay behind, the wolves might eat her. So across the prairie together they trudged, only to discover later that it was a wire gate but Mrs. Brown did not recognize wire gates as yet when she saw one.

Her husband, Norman, passed away on March 28, 1956 at the age of 89 and Mrs. Brown on April 18, 1964 at the age of 95 years.

Their son Byron married Harriet Liggett of Canton, Ohio. They had two children, Betty and Bobbie. They have three grand children, Bill and Michael Fitzpatrick and Robert Bentley Brown.

H. Pence

The Saunders

T. Saunders, his wife Mary and sons Gordon and Wellington came from eastern Canada and were among the early homesteaders of the district, settling on the SW 22-17-29-W4, just north of the Caspell place.

Gordon was an ardent Odd Fellow, and senior members of the Cayley Lodge still recall the excellence with which he delivered his charges. It is said he achieved this perfection by lecturing his horses on the principles of Odd Fellowship as he sat on the plough or the harrow working the fields.

In later years he was stricken with a severe form of arthritis. By that time his father had passed away and he and his brother and Mother had moved into the house in town which is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Reg Tutte.

Mr. L. Beaton, Sr. was the good neighbor who went, every day for many years, to help care for Gordon and to assist him in and out of his wheel-chair.

Mrs. Saunders died in 1946 at the age of 84. Gordon died in 1947 and Wellington in 1951.

Their homestead was sold to Alec Gilchrist, later to Alec Nesbitt, and is now owned by Melvin Caspell.

Robert Longworth MacMillan

When Robert Longworth MacMillan, a young man from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, decided he wanted to learn ranching he was sent out west in 1902 by Frank Heartz. Heartz, also of Charlottetown owned the Chair Ranch in partnership with a Mr. Henderson. The ranch, approximately eleven miles due west of Cayley, was the original Paleface Ranch established in 1886 by Octavious (Ocky) Greig, a well-to-do Englishman. The first purebred Herefords in the country were brought from England to the Paleface by Greig.

R.L. & Mrs. MacMillan, Phyllis & Dr. Beddingfield.

Old Home - Burnt down 1917.

"RL", as MacMillan was known, worked under the direction of Billy Ward, then Heartz manager. He proved an able pupil and became a well-known and prosperous rancher and grain-grower.

In 1910 he purchased the ranch from Mr. Heartz. That same year Miss Zoe Labelle Higgins came from Port Huron Michigan and became Mrs. MacMillan. Their first home, the log ranch-house, burned in 1917 and was replaced by a two-story frame home. The family also maintained a home in High River for many years.

In 1937 the ranch was sold to the Hutterian Bretheren and became known as the "MacMillan Colony". After the sale of the ranch the MacMillans moved to Calgary. R.L. MacMillan passed away in 1954. Mrs. MacMillan still resides in Calgary as do the four daughters, Florence Cairns, Doris McLaws, Phyllis Motherwell and Gertrude Irving.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Widdup

Bert Widdup, who came from the States, filed on his homestead south-west of here in 1902. He had one of the first good wells in the country, and after the typhoid break-out in 1903 people from the village came to Bert's to get drinking water.

Two adventurous young ladies arrived from Yorkshire, England in 1908 with all equipment necessary to establish a first class laundry in Cayley. They were Miss Maude Coussons and Miss Alice Sterling. As they travelled across the country on the train and saw the homesteader's little shacks here and there on the prairie they thought - how romantic! The laundry business didn't come up to their expectations, for the Chinese laundries provided too stiff economic competition, but the girls did find romance. Miss Coussons became Mrs. Bert Widdup, and her friend married another young homesteader, James Brown.

Bert bought his bride a saddle horse and she thoroughly enjoyed exploring the open countryside on horseback. There were still few fences and gates to hamper a rider at that time. Another remembered pleasure was attending the "Thimble Bees" at the homes of Mrs. Gribble and Mrs. Norman Brown and their neighbours.

Mrs. Widdup remembers there were no half-hearted celebrations in those early days. On one May 24th it took three halls to accommodate the crowd for the evening which culminated the sports day. Dancers waltzed and twirled at McDonald's Hall and at Wicken's Hall, and games were played at the Presbyterian Hall, while the staff at the hotel kitchen and dining room worked frantically to provide refreshments for all.

Mr. and Mrs. Widdup were charter members of the I.O.O.F. and Rebekah Lodges. Mrs. Widdup was the first Noble Grand of Fernleaf Lodge, and the President of the first Red Cross group in Cayley. Bert's dry humor and Mrs. Widdup's quick wit enlivened many a Cayley gathering. Maude had considerable dramatic talent and took part in all the amateur theatricals. She also sang in the choir.

The Widdups had the misfortune to lose their home by fire. Another house was built, which is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Stafford.

Mr. Widdup passed away in 1944 and Mrs. Widdup resides in High River. Miss Maribel Widdup, and David and his family reside in Calgary.

Iris Keller

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Widdup

Thomas Widdup was English by birth but came to the United States as a young man, and was a veteran of the Civil War. Mrs. Widdup was American. They came to Cayley after their son Bert had located here and bought land in Squaw Coulee, from the CC Ranch, and built their home on the hillside. Their quarter later became part of Bert's farm. Mr. and Mrs. Widdup were very active in the Methodist Church. After a few years they moved to Nanton to be with their son-in-law and daughter, the Sam Hellings.

Mr. Widdup had a brother Fred who homesteaded at Bassano.

William and Margaret Caspell

William (Will) Caspell and his wife Margaret arrived in High River from St. Marys, Ontario, in the spring of 1903. Later that year Mr. Caspell bought the Capt. Fey farm in Rocky Coulee six miles west of Cayley. There the Caspells with seven of their eight children: Marie, Edna, Gordon, Lindsay, Ethel, Murray and Earl, raised their family in a lovely large family home. Edward Caspell, eldest son, was at this time living in Vancouver. The seven Caspells all attended school at the school one mile south of Cayley where Marie became the teacher.

William & Margaret Caspell

Will Caspell shipped a number of loads of horses from Ontario for resale in southern Alberta. He was very active in all Municipal affairs and school boards, and serving as secretary-treasurer of the Municipality most of his life and largely responsible as the guiding hand in developments in the district. The entire Caspell family were very active in all community affairs, sports and church life. Earl was killed overseas three days before Armistice in World War 1 while attached to the Strathcona Light Horse.

Mr. Caspell passed away in 1929 and Mrs. Caspell on December 20th, 1946, at the age of eighty-five.

Lyle Caspell

Gordon and Fern Caspell

Gordon was a son of Wm and Margaret Caspell and came to Cayley with his parents in 1903. He rode the range for John and Jim Glendenning, cousins of his mother. It was a rugged job keeping track of horses and cattle on the open range, especially during storms.

He homesteaded beyond Reid Hill post-office, east of Vulcan. While proving up on his homestead we were married. I was the former Fern Clever, daughter of Jim and Mary Clever. After about two years on the farm we moved to the Okanagan Valley. We returned to Cayley and Gordon managed the Bawlff Grain elevator for sometime. Mrs. Murphy and I ran a laundry for awhile. We moved to Nanton and managed the Caspell's Coffee Shop for almost twenty five years.

I remember going to Church in the hall above Fred McDonalds store and we had our choir practice there too. Many a night we would stand on the back step at the head of the stairs and listen to the lovely music of Sandy Durhams bagpipes. He also played a smaller one at our community concerts. We also watched "Haley's Comet" with one of the most beautiful tails of stars that has ever been seen.

The wild flowers were beautiful beyond description. There were crocus, shooting stars, blue bells, wild roses, ferns and tiger lilies and often a patch of sweet grass which you could smell from quite a distance. There were buffalo wallows

scattered everywhere. Some not yet grassed over and still often a foot deep. The buffalo were gone when Cayley was born but there were many skulls around with the horns still attached so they couldn't have been too old.

I've heard cattle bawl two miles away when they would gather in great numbers when a range bull fight was being fought. I've seen the sun fade to a red ball, then disappear, from prairie fire smoke. One could count three or four prairie fires at night and I have counted twice that many at a dry time in the fall.

We had four children. Cyril was born in the Okanagan and now lives in Nanton. Viola (Crockett) born at Cayley and living at Sylvan Lake. Stanley was born at High River and is settled at Invermere, B.C. Margaret (Orchard) born at Cayley and still at Nanton. Cyril served in the Army and Stanley in the Air Force.

Gordon passed away in 1956 at the age of 68 years and I still reside in Nanton.

Fern Caspell

Murray Caspell Family

Murray Cyril Caspell was born in St. Mary's, Ontario in 1895, and came west to the Cayley district with his parents in 1904. There, in 1917, he met and married Ruby Ellen Scobie, who had come west with her parents from Chatham and Manotick districts in Ontario. For the first year of their married life, they lived on a little ranch back in the hills south west of Nanton. They then took over the farming operations from Murray's father on the home place west of Cayley.

Here they raised a family of four boys: Earle, now residing in Calgary, married Dorothy Thurston in 1949, has three children - two boys, one girl, is an electrician by trade; Lloyd, of Cayley, married Verone McCrea in 1961, has one daughter, is farming south east of Cayley; Melvin of Cayley, married Jean Miller in 1952, has five children, all girls, is farming on the home farm west of Cayley; Ralph now residing in Calgary, married Norma McAllister in 1954, has three children, all girls, is associated with Canadian Western Propane Ltd.

Murray loved working with cattle, and while farming was his largest undertaking, he devoted a great deal of his time to ranching. He favored the Aberdeen Angus breed, and down through the years built up a fine herd of commercial Angus cows. He was also a great lover of horses, and took great pride in his fine saddle ponies. And back in the days before the tractor took over the farm, he was well known for his sleek driving teams, and his crack Clydesdale 4 horse teams.

Ruby always enjoyed gardening and will always be remembered for the beautiful flowers she grew, and her artistic ability for arranging them.

Murray and Ruby lived on the farm west of Cayley until 1950 when they retired to live in Cayley, and "take it easy" for a change. Here they both passed on to their eternal reward, Murray in 1951, Ruby in 1962.

Lloyd & Verone Caspell

Edward W. Caspell

E.W. Caspell, better known as Ed Caspell, came from St. Mary's, Ontario to Vancouver in 1901. He married Pearl Welsh of Victoria and Vancouver in 1904, moving to Cayley in 1906 entering the hardware business. In Cayley on April 12, 1909 Pearl Caspell gave birth to their son Lyle; house-boy on this occasion was a young Chinese boy named Kwong Lung who later became a fine citizen and

merchant of Cayley. When the occasion afforded itself Kwong often told Lyle he changed his first diapers. In 1912 Ed and family moved back to Vancouver where their daughter Kathryn (Mrs. S. Tiffin) was born on November 25, 1913. Ed was employed by the Hudson Bay Company and in 1920 they transferred him to Vernon, B.C.

Pearl Caspell passed away in Vernon December 15, 1925. Ed and children moved to San Francisco in 1927, father and daughter returned to Cayley and entered the general store business in 1929. Lyle remained in California.

Ed purchased the Thompson General Store in Hartell in 1934. That year too, he married Mrs. Nell McClintock. They enjoyed a number of years of the Turner Valley oil boom, retiring to Calgary in 1946 where Ed passed away in June, 1956.

Lyle Caspell

Lyle Wentworth Caspell

Lyle sailed to Alaska in the spring of 1930 on the S.S. Bering remaining in western Alaska until the fall of 1932 when he returned to Cayley, Hartell in 1934, back to Alaska in 1935, Hartell in 1936 where he entered the oil business which became his life work. Lyle married Kathleen Shier in July, 1938 and since this date Kathleen and Lyle have travelled far and wide to many parts of the world. After lengthy stays in Texas and Hawaii returned to Calgary to take up permanent residence in 1956. Kathleen and Lyle have been very active in outdoor life, community affairs and youth work.

Lyle Caspell

William George Richardson

My father, mother and two children, Dean and myself, came to Alberta in April 1904 from Lambton County, Ontario. Father's brother, Harry F. Richardson, had come west in 1903 and homesteaded one mile east of the Meadowbank Hall. They lived where Gerry Sweet's now live, and it was to Uncle Henry's place we came. Dad worked at various jobs that first summer while looking for a homestead. He was helped immeasurably by the late Mr. Fred Roy who knew the country pretty well by that time and drove him around with his team and buggy. He filed on the NE ¼ Section 32-16-29W 4th, five miles west of Connemara, and in the fall of 1904 we were settled in our own home. Some time later he bought the SE quarter of that section. We were just across the road from the C.C. Ranch and well do I remember when Mr. Drumheller had a man by the name of Thrun come in with a big steam outfit and start to break up the land. We had no well that first summer and had to haul our water from a spring on Section 33, but in 1905 a man by the name of Angel drilled a well for us by using a team of horses on a tumble-shaft.

There were no fences those first few years and the C.C. cattle used to roam right up to our door, then when the cowboys would come to get them with a great hoot and holler mother, thinking they were wild Indians, would shove us children into the bedroom for safety.

In a few years another boy and girl were born into the family, Ella and Neil. We children received our elementary education at the Coleraine school; dad was secretary of the Coleraine School District No. 1288 for a number of years, and one of our teachers, Miss Etta Palmer of New Brunswick, later became Mrs. Jack Wickens. Several of our teachers boarded in the Wickens home. Grandma Wickens was a fine seamstress and came into our home on several occasions to help with

the sewing.

My mother was a great butter maker and took prizes at fairs. She had customers for butter and eggs in Cayley and every week, with the horse and buggy, made trips to town with the produce. We dealt at Mr. George Wickens' store. Father hauled grain into Cayley to the N. Bawlf elevator when Mr. Clark Eyres was grain buyer. On these trips he would eat dinner at a boarding house operated by Miss Edith Scragg; he would have a good meal for twenty-five cents. At one time Cayley had its own newspaper, "The Hustler", a bright little publication; our blacksmith work was done by Mr. Sandy Durham, who also excelled as a bagpipe player. It was not unusual to drive into town and the skirl of the pipes would reach you before you reached your destination. Our taxes were partly paid by doing work on the road with a team on a slip or fresno, a far cry from road work today.

A few experiences stand out in my memory of those early homesteading days.... the run-a-ways we used to have going to and from school resulting in broken buggies and harness, but luckily none of the children were hurt....the time when I went back to Mosquito Creek to bring the milk cows home and my pony got stuck in quicksand or quagmire and I had to get off and "pull her out" by the reins.... taking the cattle to a community dipping vat when mange was a common disease among the livestock....a prairie fire coming in from the southwest and mother getting the horse and buggy ready to move out with the children and a few possessions (dad was away fighting the fire), but the wind switched and saved us....the days when the big threshing machine with its cook and bunk cars coming in the fall; the neighbor men would help with the grain hauling from the machine to the granaries.... Dad and mother were strong in their religious convictions and did their best to teach us the value of the Christian life, and in this regard church service was held in our home; the minister was Mr. Backus, father of the late Mrs. Pete Sim. Then later, the Coleraine school was used for church during the summer with student ministers in charge; one of whom was the late Rev. Peter Dawson in 1916. Dad was a charter member of the Alberta Wheat Pool and a staunch supporter of the U.F.A. By 1917 he was tiring of the long cold trips to town so sold this land and moved to near Nanton, even though some of the neighbors were getting cars he did not have a desire for one.

In 1918 I took my first position in the business world, in the Cayley Post Office which was operated by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Scragg. There was a telephone switchboard in connection with the Post Office. Four trains a day had to be met with the mail, and we had to meet them, or else!! I was never quite sure just what 'or else' meant. Mr. and Mrs. Scragg left the Post Office and went farming that spring, but I stayed on and worked with Mr. Wes Ferris for a few months.

Of our family, Dean married Mildred Smith who came with her parents from New York to Nanton, but moved to Rocky Mountain House in 1910. They raised two daughters, Joyce (Mrs. Ted Mackay) Don Mills, Ont. and Joan, (Mrs. Albert Fox) of Nanton. Ella became Mrs. Frank Evans and raised six children: Evan of Nanton, Alwyn (Mrs. Ray Burgess, Calgary) James, married Yvonne Alexander, Iris (Mrs. Erwin Perrault, Calgary) Robert of the R.C.M.P., and Louise (Mrs. Herb Hogg, Picture Butte). Brother Neil married a Vancouver girl and with their son, David, lives in Edmonds, Wash. I, Janet, married Archie Hogg and live west of High River, and have a glad feeling when I look to the southeast and see some of the country in which I grew up, and hope we have contributed something, however small, to this great country we are proud to call home.

Janet Hogg

Capt. Samuel Ward Dick

In the spring of 1905 Capt. Dick arrived in this district, accompanied by his

sons, Arch and Ward. A short time later, Capt. Henry H. Dexter, a son-in-law, joined them and the four men entered into a partnership. These four men took up homesteads, adjoining the land they had already purchased. On part of their property was located "The Mystic Cave" and in a book of poems, written by Mrs. Ward Dick, the details of this cave is given.

After a house had been built, Mrs. Dick and daughters, Gertrude and Ada, came out from Saint John, New Brunswick, to make their home here, with husband and boys.

Capt. Dick was a very strong minded type of man and politics and religion were most vital to him. Mrs. Dick was a gracious homemaker and hostess and Gertrude added greatly to the social and musical activities of the district. Ada, a teen-age girl, was of a bright and happy personality.

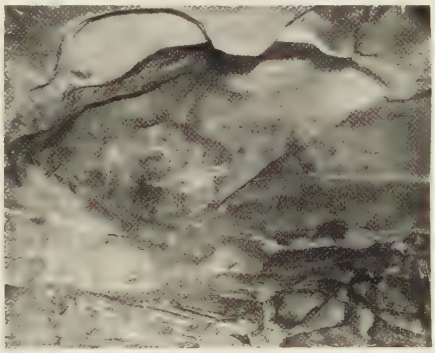
In 1909 Capt. Dick and the lady members of the family moved into High River and the business partnership was dissolved upon the sale of the land. The sons then relocated on a ranch on Willow Creek.

Capt. Dick died in June, 1910 and his wife had passed away the month previous. Ada died in 1912 and Gertrude in 1925.

Cayley Rock

Cayley Rock, also known as Pekisko or Mystic Cave, is located on land owned by the MacMillan Hutterite Colony. It is a naturally weathered cave in Paskapoo sandstone, the main feature being the dome with its ancient pictographs.

At mouth of Mystic Cave. Ward Dick at right. Glenbow Foundation photo.



Northwest corner inside the cave, showing dome and pictographs. Glenbow Foundation photo.

Ward Dick, who formerly owned the land on which the cave is located, was very interested in the origin of the pictographs, and contacted archaologists in many parts of the world in an attempt to trace them to a race other than North American Indians. The opinion of archaologists of this province is that while they are very ancient, that they are the work of Indians.

Painted Canyon

Four miles up Zepher Creek from the Forestry road south of the Highwood is a narrow canyon, on the wall of which are red ochre pictographs. The largest pictograph clearly shows a man being chased by a buffalo. This is the Painted Canyon, or the Zepher Creek Pictographs. The walls of the cliff are badly broken.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McPherson

Robert McPherson came west in 1903. He homesteaded first at Reid Hill, and in 1905 he and Ernie McComb settled as partners on land in Rocky Coulee west of Cayley. When Ernie married and moved to Cayley, Bob took over the farm. One of his first ventures was taking sheep in to pasture for a Montana sheepman. Many thousands were wintered in the shelter of the Coulee where spring water was available.

Later the McPherson farm was rented to Fred Edey while Bob ran a livery barn in Cayley. Some of his helpers were O. Charleton, Charlie Stitt and Charlie Phillips.

In 1919 Bob built the brick garage which still stands opposite the church. At that time the main road between Calgary and Macleod passed by on that street, many people were buying cars, and the business was an important one. The building itself cost $5000.00, and this addition to the Cayley tax rolls helped make possible the building of the new school in 1920.

Mrs. McPherson was Catherine Gillespie, who taught school in Cayley. After their marriage they moved back to the farm, selling the garage business to George Barr.

Mr. and Mrs. McPherson were active in the community and church. Mrs. McPherson was a member of the Cayley W.I. She was interested in the history of the community, and recalled a man who dreamed of building a swinging bridge across Squaw Coulee, but he gave up the dream and went back to the States.

Fire destroyed the McPherson's nice farm home in 1949. Mr. and Mrs. McPherson moved into Cayley and later retired to Nanton. The farm was sold to Cecil Moncrieff.

Mr. McPherson died in 1953 and Mrs. McPherson in 1961. Their eldest son, Bob, resides in Revelstoke, B.C. Rev. Blair McPherson in Edmonton, and Jean (Mrs. Neil Mowatt) at Parkland.

Jack Drumheller

Coolige and Drumheller of Spokane purchased the CC Ranch from William Cochrane in 1909. Coolige was a banker and Drumheller a colorful frontier character known as Uncle Dan who had been one of the original pony express riders.

Management of the ranch went to Dan's son, Jack V. Drumheller, and he and Mrs. Drumheller made the CC their home until its sale to the Hutterites in 1937.

Jack had much of the ranch broken for farming - the work being done by J. Thruin's steam outfit - and large acreages were sown to grain. The field work, done by horses, required a large number of men. Among those employed on a permanent basis were Harry Wilson, who came with Jack from Spokane, Ossie Lister who was there for ten years or more, Dave Lewis, Slim Sonney, Ralph Robertson and Wes Moncrieff. Separate bungalows were built for the married men. Slim Sonney married Ruth Betts and went from the CC to Happy Valley Ranch. They had five children. Ralph Robertson married Pearl Betts. They had one daughter, Mary.

Mosquito Creek School was about a mile west of the Ranch and most of the teachers - city girls as a rule - boarded at the ranch. One of the girls married Alex Ballachey, Jr.

The Drumheller's had three children, Jim, Betty and Virginia. After the ranch was sold the family moved to Calgary. Mrs. Drumheller passed away at an early age. Jack later re-married, but he too died not too long after. James Drumheller resides in Edmonton, Betty and Virginia in Calgary.

The CC holdings in Happy Valley are now owned by H.B. MacLeod.

Jack's younger brother, Fred, farmed about six quarters of land in the Cayley district. It is said that the city of Drumheller was named for a half-brother - Samuel Drumheller.

Snow Sears

The Klondyke Ranch, nine miles west of Connemara, presently owned by Snow Sears, Steve Sears and George Thompson, son-in-law of Snow, was established in the early nineteen hundreds by Bob Esplin, a sourdough of the Yukon Gold Rush of '98. After ups and downs of various sorts Esplin sold the ranch to R.G. Jones of Elmira, Washington, who leased it out to various parties.

When the Sears family came from Topeka, Kansas in 1910, A.H. Mayland and W.D. Ransom of Calgary owned the property and Snow put the hay up on the place that year. In 1911 Charles Gribble farmed it and from 1913 to 1917 it was operated by Bob and Ken McPherson of Travers.

In 1917 Snow bought the Klondyke and has operated it ever since. That same year he married Miss Elizabeth Wright of Armstrong, B.C. who was teaching at Coleraine School. They had two children - Steve, who now ranches at Timber Ridge and Marilyn (Mrs. George Thompson) who, with her husband, now farms the Klondyke.

Snow Sears was elected to the U.F.A. board in 1918 and to the U.G.G. in 1922. He served on the U.G.G. board for 42 years, becoming vice-president in 1960 and retiring in 1964. He was an official of the U.F.A. and U.G.G. for a total of 48 years, a wonderful record of public service.

In 1959 Snow and Beth retired to Nanton where they greet their friends and neighbors with the same warmth and kindliness shown to everyone when they were living at the Klondyke.

William and Elizabeth Gilchrist

William and Elizabeth arrived in Alberta from Perth, Scotland, with their family, Henry, Tom, Bill, Isabelle and Agnes. Mr. Gilchrist was employed by the C.P.R. in Calgary before coming to Cayley to rent the Jack Atcheson place, eleven miles west of Cayley. In 1921 he went back to Calgary then later returned to farm with his son Henry on N.½ S.17-17-29-W.4th.

The home Henry built for them was later moved to Charlie Crow's farm to be near their daughter, Agnes. Elizabeth was known to everyone in the district as

"Mother Gilchrist". She passed away in 1945 and William in 1947.

Henry left Cayley in 1939 to live east of Calgary where he became a full time Auctioneer.

Tom bought the Gordon Bidiwell homestead. They had one daughter, Victoria. He later sold out to Boyd Wallace. Bill married Merle Walker and they had two daughters, Muriel and Betty. They farmed in the Cayley district before moving to Creston, B.C. Isabelle married Ira Doty.

Agnes Gilchrist married Charlie Crow in 1924 and they had three sons, Bob, Jim and Tommy (deceased). Charlie died in 1939 and Agnes married Jack Curran in 1941. In 1944 he died and she married Jim Bunnin in 1949, she is now a widow and resides in Nanton.

Arthur Jenkins

Art Jenkins came to Cayley with his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jenkins; brother Walter; sisters Dorothy, Marjorie and Kay, in June 1909 from Vancouver. At this time Walter Jenkins bought the farm of Alex Tiffin.

In the spring of 1923 Art bought his present farm from Charles Gribble (Section 1-17-1 W5 and Section 12-17-30-W4) which he is still farming.

They have one daughter, Mrs. Allen McPherson, in Calgary. Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins are well known in the district as kindly friends and neighbours.

K. Curran

Mr. and Mrs. T.A. Lister

After eight years of drought on a homestead in the Bull's Head district south of Medicine Hat, Thomas Austin Lister (Ossie), his wife Agnes and four children came to Cayley in the fall of 1924. That first fall Ossie, who had brought his farm machinery with him, did quite a bit of threshing around the district and up the Highwood. The following spring they moved out to Jack Drumheller's CC Ranch where they spent the next ten years.

Mrs. Lister Writes: "The CC was a beautiful place with a sprawling rustic ranch house and lovely rock garden, lawns and tennis-court. The cook house was in one wing of the ranch house, and Sing the Chinese cook who was there more than twenty years, would terrorize anyone who invaded his kitchen. Every time something displeased him he said he was going back to China, and I believe after the ranch was sold that he finally did. We had a very nice bungalow for our own house.

'During the first years we were there all the farming was done by horses, so that many men were employed.

'Our children, along with the three Drumheller children attended Mosquito Creek School, which was a mile west of the Ranch. Most of the teachers boarded at the ranch. Later Harold and Veryl drove a Model T coupe into Cayley School to take Grade Nine, while Mervyn and Eileen still attended Mosquito Creek.

'We had an auction sale the year before the ranch was sold, and moved to High River. Two years later we moved to Longview and Ossie worked in the oilfields for seventeen years. After retirement we lived in Midnapore for several years and then bought a home in Fernie, B.C. Ossie passed away in Fernie in 1965."

'My maiden name was Agnes Louise Lafrentz. My parents, Harry and Effie Lafrentz, lived in Cayley in the winter of 1924. Then they moved to High River where they remained until their deaths.

'Harold is a high school teacher in Trinidad. Veryl, Mrs. Arlie Laycraft, resides in Millarville. Mervyn was killed on an oil rig in 1943. Eileen, Mrs. Matt Perry, lives in Edmonton."

Cayley Colony Hutterite Bretheren

In 1937 the CC Ranch was purchased by Hutterian Bretheren. Three families of Walters, three families of Hofers and two of Stahls - about fifty-six people in all - left the over-populated West Raley Colony near Cardston and came to Cayley to form a new colony on the famed old Cochrane Ranch on Mosquito Creek. They took the name of Cayley Colony and became known locally as the CC Hutterites. CCC for both horse and cattle brands replaced the old CC (back-to-back) brand used on the ranch since 1884.

It was a no-cash deal. Jack Drumheller, who had owned the ranch since 1909 agreed to take 180,000 bushels of wheat for the 4,480 acre ranch. One third of each crop was to be turned over with the total number of bushels to be delivered within fifteen years. The first grain was delivered by West Raley Colony and the remainder by the Cayley Colony. It was mid-depression in 1937 and with wheat selling at about twenty-five cents a bushel it would seem that the Bretheren made a very good buy. The last of the required number of bushels was delivered in 1945, and wheat by that time had risen to a considerably higher figure, but a large part had been delivered in the earlier years.

Henry Walters was manager of the new colony, an elective office which he held in old and new colonies for a total of forty-six years. His son, Rev. Paul Walters, the colony preacher, was "boss" for the next four years, and was followed by Paul Stahl.

Long apartment-type buildings were constructed and divided into one or two rooms for each family. Meals are taken at a big communal dining-room. Personal possessions are kept to a minimum. Furnishings of a hand-crafted wooden chest, cupboard, table, chairs and wooden bed are all built by the Colony carpenter. Downfilled ticks and comforters and huge down pillows are given to each newly-wed couple.

Cloth is ordered by the bolt from a Winnipeg textile firm and divided between the families. All clothing including the men's black suits is home-made. The only exception is the shirts and black denim jackets which some of the young men prefer to buy.

Until 1961 the wool from the Colony sheep was carded and spun into knitting yarn. Since then the wool has been sent to the colony at Magrath where it is carded and spun by machine. Socks and stockings are still hand-knitted.

Cayley Colony has been served by electricity since Calgary Power lines were constructed in that part of the district. Coal oil lamps were replaced by light bulbs, and milking machines lessened the milking chore for the women. Even the spinning wheels were powered by electricity.

Field mechanization has been adopted too. Combines now replace the old horse-drawn binders and the women no longer have to stook. A complete and

modern blacksmith shop has been installed. Teams and wagons were the Colony's only transportation for many years, with many members hitch-hiking back and forth. Today they have trucks and a passenger van.

Several acres of vegetables supply the colony's needs. Excess vegetables and chickens are sold from house-to-house, or people may drive to the colony for their vegetables. Many people rely on getting their corn and cucumbers from the CC Colony each year.

Three hundred head of cattle graze on the ranch pastures. Sheep numbering 750 ewes and lambs supply meat and wool. Twenty five milk cows supply milk, and cream for churning. Eggs and meat are supplied by 3000 chickens, 1200 ducks and 600 geese. Down from the geese is used for pillows and comforters. Visitors driving down the hill to the Colony buildings are usually met by a big flock of waddling geese, honking their welcome or warning.

Food and supplies not produced on the Colony are purchased wholesale in Calgary.

The people of the West Raley Colony, from which Cayley Colony branched, came to Canada from Huron, South Dakota. The Hutterian sect originated under Joseph Hutter in Switzerland, emigrated to Russia, and from there to the United States. Their religious observance is similar to that of the early Mennonites, but with sterner prohibitions and strict adherence to Colony life which they base on Act 2-44 "And all that believed were together and had all things common." While regulations on the CC are less strict than on the MacMillan colony, television sets, radios, newspapers and magazines are all forbidden. So are pictures and musical instruments, although singing without accompaniment is permissable and is a part of all church services. Their religion does not permit them to take up arms, nor do they vote.

Two full religious services are held each Sunday with a forty-five minute prayer service each evening before supper. Bible classes for the children, in German, are held each morning before regular school classes begin.

For the first few years children of the Colony attended Mosquito Creek School. Teachers at that time were Mr. Armstrong and Mr. D. Sterling. Teachers in the Colony School have been Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. McCumber, Mr. Grant, Mr. Kitsobie and Mrs. Lyon. Education follows the minimum requirements demanded by the Alberta Department of Education, and students leave school on their fifteenth birthday, whether it is mid-term or not. In the past the policy has been that if a student completed the eighth grade before his fifteenth birthday, he would take that grade over to fill in the time until legal school leaving, rather than go to an outside school. At present some students are being taught Grade Nine on the Colony.

Older ladies of the Colony take charge of kindergarten classes while the little one's mothers work.

The late Peter Stahl was the Colony dentist - and a good one. His training was by apprenticeship. He was especially good at making dental plates and made them for many people outside the Colony. One Cayley lady tells of having had a very bad toothache, and because it was Sunday she was unable to reach a dentist anywhere. Someone suggested she go to the Cayley Colony and have Peter Stahl extract her tooth. She did so, and found Peter out ploughing the garden with a walking plough, but he tied up the horses, came in and washed his hands and extracted the offending molar in no time at all. It is still remembered with appreciation.

Neighbors and friends are sometimes invited to Colony weddings. They are happy affairs with much singing (unaccompanied of course), and with beer for the adults and nectar for the children.

Many of the individuals from the Colony are well-known in the district. Everyone knows, or has heard of Sarah Walters. She is the head-cook, and is a favorite of many who admire her independent spirit and business ability. When her father-in-law was manager she helped with business dealings. Her husband is Elias Walters.

"Wild Darius" Walters is another well-known individual. He owns his own truck and at one time was a full-fledged rodeo rider. He learned bronc, bull and steer riding from the Indian riders on the Blood Reserve which was near the Raley Colony. He participated in many stampedes and rodeos, including the Calgary Stampede, but eventually returned to regular Colony life. Darius' quiet wife, Rachel, takes charge of the garden.

In 1961 a grisly find was made at the Colony. Some of the men were tearing down the old pig barn and when they took up the rotted floor boards they uncovered an old skeleton. The police were notified and the skeleton was taken away for analysis. It turned out to be a male Chinese of about middle age. Who the victim was, or who put the body under the hog-house floor is still a mystery.

In thirty years the population of the Colony has nearly doubled. In 1965 there were 106 residents. Two additional sections of land were purchased from Angelo dePaoli in 1964. Modern buildings are now appearing on the CC. In 1966 a new duplex house was built, complete with picture windows, for two recently married couples.

Iris Keller

Community Attitude

The two colonies of Hutterian Brethren are accepted by the community in general, and have been since they were first established. Families who live near the colonies find the Hutterites good neighbors. They keep their fences in good repair and are willing to help in any emergency.

When a third colony attempted to purchase land to establish here shortly after the war, residents felt that the community would soon be taken over and a protest brief was drawn up. Previous government legislation was adhered to and the colony was not allowed to establish. Since then other Hutterites have established themselves just beyond the eastern fringe of the district, by purchasing land as individuals.

The Hutterite Brethren of MacMillan Colony

The MacMillan Colony was begun in 1937 by thirteen families made up of about seventy-five people. These families were both closely and distantly related so we find the names of Wipf, Entz, Waldner, Kleinsasser and Teichreb. Originally they had twenty-seven quarters of R.L. MacMillan land and five quarters of Wilfred Hatfield land. Residence was taken up on the site of the old MacMillan home. At first the land was rented from Mr. MacMillan and Mr. Jack Drumheller, the latter having taken over the Hatfield holdings. However two years later, in 1939, the land was purchased outright. Mr. Peter Entz states, to the credit of the two aforementioned men, that although not required to do so by the agreement, they applied the crop rental which had been paid over the two previous years on the purchase price.

The colony has flourished and grown over the years. In early 1966 there were 126 people residing in the colony. Further land purchases from Rush Bond, Jack Brady, Charlie Crowe, Herbig Brothers, Charlie Lehr, Harold Robinson, Archie Walker and Percy Windiate have brought the holdings to sixty quarters. In 1957, since they were over crowded, they branched out to a new colony near Hanna, Alberta; eighty-three people went to the new colony; eighty-two remained at MacMillan.

Mr. Jacob J. Wipf was the religious leader of the colony until his death. He was assisted for many years by Mr. Samuel S. Kleinsasser who left in 1958 to be the religious leader at the Hanna colony. He was then assisted by Mr. John M. Wipf who became religious leader on the death of Mr. Jacob Wipf.

Mr. Peter Entz has long been an important part of the colony. He was Teacher, Farm Boss, and finally in 1946 became The Boss. He still holds this last office, which could probably be best interpreted as "Manager".

Much has been written about the Hutterite Brethren so little need be said here. The sect originated in the Tyrol district of Austria. From there they migrated to Russia where they enjoyed 99 years of religious freedom. When life in Russia was no longer tenable, they moved to U.S.A. settling in South Dakota and Minnesota. This move took place in the years 1877-1879. In 1918 "Lehrer Leut" (Teacher's People) came to Alberta. (Each group takes its name from the occupation of a forefather). The people of MacMillan Colony branched off from the Big Bend Colony at Woolford, Alberta, and so became another Lehrer Leut.

The young Hutterite is baptized in his late teens or early twenties at which time he becomes a full-fledged, voting member of the community. The head of each branch, for example - the Farm Boss, - is voted on for eligibility by the voting community and then chosen by lot. After his appointment, he must prepare himself for his stewardship ahead. The religious leader has, however, the final word and authority over all matters pertaining to the colony.

By the time a Hutterite has reached adulthood he is familiar with three languages. He speaks a Hutterite dialect which is an archaic Tyrolese German considerably changed over the centuries. His German teacher has indoctrinated him with High German both by instruction and by insistence on his memorizing five hundred verses from the German Bible. His English teacher, sent in by the Department of Education, instructs him in the same subjects and for the same length of time as he would have had in an ordinary public school.

It has been asked, may a Hutterite who has once left the colony come back. Yes he can, and several have. On their return they must promise faithfully to live up to all the rules of the colony. Actually they are given a period of time in which to prove their sincerity. May a member marry outside the sect? Yes, providing the marriage partner becomes a convert to the faith.

Doris Tutte

Stafford Family

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Stafford and family purchased the Bert Widdup farm from Mrs. Widdup in 1957. They had previously farmed east of Calgary. They have twin boys, Monty and Sandy, and a daughter Susan.

Highview School District

Highview School District No. 1718 was situated about half way between Cayley and High River. The earliest settlers in the district were the Holmes family who came in the 1880's (their son Bill Holmes was the first child born in the district), and Paddy Langford who took land along the Little Bow which was later purchased by Dan Riley.

The Newt Meyers family came from the States in 1902 and the Richards family from England in 1903. George McVicar bought land in the Highview district in 1904. Other homesteaders were Luther Hicks, Morrisons, Goulds and Rathbuns. Mr. Harry Gould was a great student of bird-life and a skilled taxidermist. The school children were always welcome at his home or later at his shoe-store in High River to study his birds. He also contributed to the education of the pioneer children of the district.

In 1907 the Wambeke family with a number of school-age children moved to the district from Last Chance. A school organizing meeting was held soon after at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kinghorn. Mr. Leopold Meyers was chairman of the meeting.

Mr. Kinghorn was elected chairman of the Board and Mr. Marcellus Ingalls and Mr. Newton Meyers trustees. Mr. J.C. Slater was elected Secretary Treasurer and also accepted the position of teacher at a salary of $60.00 per month. Others attending the meeting were J.K. Meyers, Bumgardner, George McVicar and C. Wambeke.

J.P. McNearney donated the site for the buildings with the provision that if the school should cease to exist that the land would revert back to him. The name Highview was chosen because the elevation of the land gave a fine view in all directions.

Having obtained the sanction of the Minister of Education, eight hundred dollars was borrowed on debentures at eight percent interest from the Northern Crown Bank in High River. Building tenders were called for with that of D.J. Bell being accepted. He was assisted by volunteer help from the district. Newton Meyers hauled the rocks for the foundation.

Lean years followed the building of the school and it was difficult to collect the taxes, and in 1910 it became necessary to close down for lack of funds. Norman Cruikshank was the teacher at the time and money had to be borrowed from the bank to pay his salary. On the Board that year were Harry Richards, Bert Richards and E.S. Anderson. The school opened briefly the following year but closed again - this time for lack of pupils - and remained closed until 1917 when part of the land which had been taken from Highview and given to Last Chance and High River was restored. This provided extra tax resources as well as additional pupils.

During the years when the school was closed taxes dropped very low - the rate in 1914 and 1915 being one cent per acre. In 1918 after the school had re-opened it was six and one-half cents per acre. The bond, incidently, was paid off in 1913. At a meeting in 1919 it was proposed that all males over twenty-one years who resided in the district more than thirty days be assessed Four Dollars school tax. Apparently the proposal didn't receive the backing of the meeting.

Robert Hicks was the teacher when the school re-opened, and he was succeed-

ed by Miss Anderson. A copy of the 1920 register was found, the students that year being Harold Walsh, Russell Burgess, Orville Scobie, Lillian Jones, Ida Burgess, Alex Burgess, Henry Jones, Joe Tracy, Margaret Stephenson, Dolly Case, Dorothy Spence, Mary Bicknell, Aileen Walker, Stanley Walker and Ethel Burgess.

In 1923, when Miss Etheridge (Mrs. M.J. Hicks) was teacher, Mary Bicknell brought honor to herself and to Highview by winning the Governor General's Bronze Medal for the highest aggregate marks in Grade VIII for the High River Inspectorate.

The teachers boarded in the homes - Richards or Hicks or Scobies - and to these kindly old timers the strange young teachers coming into the district owed much of their happiness.

When the natural gas line was laid it ran through the schoolyard, so in 1928 Highview became one of the few rural schools to be heated by natural gas.

Teachers over the years were J.C. Slater, Norman Cruikshank, Robert Hicks, Miss Anderson, Miss Noble, Miss Desson, Sadie Treacy, Pearl Kitchen, Miss Bourne, Kathleen Cascadden, Ken Walker, Miss Etheridge, Kathleen Shier, Dorothy Brown, Miss Bonney, Alma Parker and Jeanette Veale.

Salaries ranged from Sixty to One Hundred and Twenty Dollars a month. The first teacher, Mr. Slater, received Sixty in 1907, with the same amount again paid in the mid 1930's. At that time the caretaker's salary was also cut from Four to Two Dollars.

Following the original School Board, others who served on the Board were E. S. Anderson, Harry Richards, Bert Richards, Charles E. Dovey, D. Morrison, Wm. Stephenson, Hugh Mainland, J.A. Hicks, Alex Burgess, Rufus Stead, M.J. Hicks, Angus Scobie, Joe Hurst, Jim Street and Orville Scobie, W.E.M. Holmes was Secretary-treasurer.

There was always a strong community spirit in the Highview district. The many fine Christmas concerts were well attended. Dances were sometimes held in the school, and the Community Picnic in the High River Park was a looked-forward-to annual event, so it was with extreme reluctance that Highview gave up their school to become part of the Foothills Division.

In 1941 the school was closed for good and the pupils transported by van to Cayley. The school-house was moved to Cayley where it became the Principal's residence. Funds remaining in the Highview treasury were voted to be used to help purchase a moving-picture projector, screen and chairs for the Cayley School auditorium. The remainder was used to purchase a typewriter for the typing class.

The last pupils at Highview were Goldie and Jean Fraser, Vera, Bill, George and Margaret Hurst, Dorothy Meyers, Norma Scobie and Florence and John Hicks. The last teacher was Miss Jeanette Veale.

(Information for the above was gathered by the late Mrs. M.J. Hicks about 1955.)

Thomas Richards Family

Mr. Thomas Richards was born in Cornwall, England and went to Millbrook, Ontario where he met Miss Josephine Orr, whom he later married. His children were all born in Millbrook. Mr. Richards had a beautiful voice and sang in the Methodist Church for twenty five years. He was a carpenter by trade.

He moved his family to Souris, Manitoba and in 1901 he came on West to High River. His sons, Bert and Harry, came in 1903. Harry and his dad took up homesteads four miles south of High River, now owned by Mr. Sam Brown. When Bert was old enough he took up a homestead also. This homestead was held for Bert by the late Mr. R.A. Wallace, M.P. The three pieces of land were all in the same section.

A few months later Mrs. Richards and her two daughters, Alice and Kathleen came to live on this land. None of the family had lived in the country before and found it rather hard. Mrs. Richards was the grand daughter of Lord and Lady Brecken. At times the house was surrounded by cattle and these were frightened away by beating tin pans. Finally a fence was built around the house to protect it.

The Richards had a real good neighbour, Jim McNerney, whom they could depend on for anything.

Christmas, 1903 Minnie and Bessie Richards came to their new home. Bessie taught school at Last Chance and Kathleen attended school, both riding horses to school. Bessie later taught at Little Bow School where she met Clyde Ellis and later married him. They had five boys and one girl; Austin, Ross, Jack, Ted, Scott and Kathleen. Minnie married Arthur White.

Mr. Richards passed away in 1910 at the age of fifty nine. Mrs. Richards in 1933, Minnie in 1940, Harry in 1957 and Kathleen in 1955.

Alice (Richards) Ford

Duncan and Alice Morrison

Duncan and Alice Morrison homesteaded the SE 5-17-28 W4 (Hugh Hanson's east quarter). The grove of trees where the building had stood remained for a number of years but were finally cut down. The Morrisons later had a grocery store in High River. Mrs. D.O. Brown is a daughter.

Charles Shortt Place

Charles Shortt bought his land in the Highview district from the first owner, a Mr. Weir, sometime before 1910. Several families rented the farm from Mr. Shortt including Alex Burgess, Bicknells, Oliver Jones and Watt Hill. Mr. and Mrs. Shortt moved to the farm in 1935 and made it their home for several years. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Alex Knupp. Mrs. Knupp is the former Lillian Shortt.

Lucius Franklin Rathbun

Lu Rathbun purchased the land now owned by Jim Street. He had a steam threshing outfit and threshed around the country for a number of years. Sam, the Chinaman who cooked at the Astoria Hotel for many years used to cook for the threshing crew on the Rathbun outfit.

Lu was an outdoorsman, and was interested in prospecting and mining. He mined at the Parton coal mines south of Longview, and in Coal Coulee by the Longview Bridge.

Mrs. Gwen Ripley, who resides in High River, is a daughter.

Bollen Family

The Bollen family lived on the present Joe Hurst farm shortly before the first war. When Highview school was closed the three boys, Charlie, Ambrose and Eddie rode bareback to school in Cayley.

The Goulds and Higginbothams

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gould and Mrs. Gould's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Higginbotham came from London, Ontario in 1905 and settled north of Cayley. The Higginbotham's quarter (NW6-17-28-W4) is the present Matt Hicks home quarter, and Gould's land joined it on the east.

Mrs. H.E. Beddingfield of High River is the former Miss Leila Gould. She came west with her family but returned to London to continue her studies in music.

Mr. and Mrs. Gould moved to High River where Mr. Gould was proprietor of a shoe store for many years. He was an ardent naturalist, his special interest being bird-life, and his many mounted specimens added interest to his store.

George D. McVicar

George McVicar came in 1905 from Ontario, where he had graduated from Galt College, choosing this area where his cousins the Captain Dick family and the Dexters had settled. He filed on a homestead but got the wrong range number and discovered his quarter was on the side of a young mountain 25 miles west of Cayley. By the time he got back to the land office someone else had filed on the homestead he thought he was getting. So he purchased land north-east of Cayley. Although a bachelor he took an active interest in school affairs right from the start.

In 1920 he married Miss Mary Prest from his hometown of Ailsa Craig, and built the house still on the property. (Now the Jorgenson home).

Mr. and Mrs. McVicar were kindly people with the ability to see the humor in so many everyday occurrences, and they had a host of friends. They were active in all community affairs and in the church.

About 1945 they sold their farm to Roy Henderson and retired to High River.

George McVicar died in 1949 and Mrs. McVicar in 1952.

The Hicks Family

Mr. and Mrs. John Andrew Hicks and their four sons came from Petrolia, Ontario to the Highview district in 1912, and farmed land owned by Wm. Parker. Robert taught school at Highview. In 1918 he went overseas with the Canadian Army and served in the medical corps. Charles, too, went overseas and was killed in action. After the war Robert continued his studies in medicine and became a well known doctor at the Col. Belcher Hospital in Calgary. Luther, who is now deceased, went to the Peace River country.

M.J. (Matt) Hicks purchased a half section south of Highview School, and married Miss Etheridge, one of the Highview teachers. Matt served on the School Board for a number of years before the District joined Foothills Division. Mrs. Hicks, who is now deceased, did a great deal of careful research on the history of Highview School and the homesteaders of the district. Their daughter Florence is now Mrs. John Kubicek of Calgary. Their son, John, and his family resides at Bluffton.

Rufus Stead

Rufus Stead came from Prince Edward Island shortly after the first war. He and Mrs. Stead worked at Dan Riley's and later purchased the present Joe Hurst farm. Rufus was chairman of the Highview School board. The family are Bert, George and Helen (now deceased). The Steads moved to Calgary in 1936. Rufus passed away in 1966.

Ned Stead, Rufus' brother, came west a few years after Rufus did.

The Hurst Family

Mr. Joe Hurst came to the High River district from Lincolnshire, England in 1912. Mrs. Hurst arrived from Nottinghamshire in 1920. In 1936 the Hursts purchased their present farm. This farm had, in the early years, been operated as a school of farming for young Englishmen by Hanson and Anderson. Mr. Hurst purchased the land from Mr. Anderson's brother, F. Anderson who resided in England.

The students were from well-to-do families. A note from a 1906 issue of the High River Times mentions that 46 pieces of luggage had arrived at the High River depot for nine students enrolled at Mr. Hanson's Agricultural Farm. Hanson and Anderson also conducted another such farm-school north of the Big Lake.

The house on the Hurst farm was larger then in order to accommodate the students. Two wings were later detached and converted into a garage and a granary. Other families who occupied the farm previous to the Hursts were the Bollen's and Rufus Steads.

The Hurst children attended school at Highview and later at Cayley. Mr. Hurst recalls that when Highview school was in operation he had paid as low as 4½ mills school tax - compared to 1965's 36½ mills.

The family took an active part in district activities and Mr. Hurst served on the Highview school board.

Mr. and Mrs. Hurst still reside on their farm. Vera lives in Airdrie, and Bill, George and Margaret all reside in Calgary.

James Street

Jim came from Rocanville, Saskatchewan in 1927 and found employment with the late George McVicar. It was like a second home to Jim and he worked for the McVicars for eight summers and twelve winters before starting out for himself. He first rented the Angus Scobie farm, now George Noble's place. In 1950 he bought the farm four miles north of Cayley from his brother-in-law, Orville Scobie.

On November 18, 1937 Jim and Gertrude Laycraft were married. Their only daughter Benita married Larry Bannerman. Larry and Benita, who reside in Nanton, have a son, James Grant, born in 1966. Benita is an R.N. and nursed in Montreal and the High River General Hospital.

Jim and Gertrude have retired to High River.

George Noble

George Noble was born in Ontario and came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Noble, to High River. In 1939 he moved to the former Angus Scobie farm, and two years later married Marguerite Larson of High River. George and Marguerite have four daughters - Patricia, Marelyn, Nancy and Frances. The girls attended Cayley school for a number of years but later transferred to High River.

Jorgen Jorgenson

Jorgen (George) Jorgenson came from Norway to Parkland. He farmed in the Parkland-Nanton district for a number of years before buying the McVicar place from Ken Oatts.

George and Anne Jorgenson have one daughter and five sons. Joseph Horton who served for several years with the RCMP and who now farms in Manitoba, Ethel Horton now Mrs. Adrian Keats of Calgary, Stan Horton who married Margaret Ann Shier and resides at Nanton, and Dwight, Keith and Grant Jorgenson.

Anne is an expert handicrafter and George's pleasure is fishing.

Highview school children, about 1918.

Braeside School

Braeside School No. 1748 was built in 1908. The first meetings were held at Charlie Brown's home. Charlie Brown, Gordon Crisman and Charles Schact were the first trustees. Phil Wilkinson was the first Secretary-Treasurer. The site chosen on the S.W. 35-17-28-W4 was by a steep coulee hill, so the school was named Braeside. Ed Brewster contracted to do the building and supply all materials for the 20 x 28 foot school-house, barn and out-buildings for One Thousand Dollars. The loan for this amount was to be repaid in ten annual instalments and there was a stipulation that the interest was not to exceed eight percent.

Miss C.O. Bailey was the first teacher, hired at a salary of Fifty Dollars per month. The first pupils were George Brown, Charlie, Elsie and Albert Schact, Cora, Frank and Fern Barker. In the spring of 1909 the Orr Houghton family with three children of school age - Ernest, Cleo and Dottie - and the Eaglesham's with for - Eva, Annie, Margaret and Elliott - arrived to swell the attendance to fourteen.

Braeside School 1937–1938 Term.
(Closed June 1939)
Back row: Jack Miller, Peggy Miller, Lila Ross, Jean Gardiner, Pauline Negraff and Doreen Cumming. Front row: Elaine Cumming, Lloyd Cumming, Beryl Townsend and Mary Negraff. Absent: Jim Townsend.

Charlie Schact did the janitor work for Two Dollars per month. Charlie tells how he had to walk two and a half miles and light the fire. Miss Bailey hung a thermometer on the wall and insisted that he have the temperature up to seventy degrees when she arrived at the school, so when Charlie saw her coming he would light a match and hold it to the thermometer until it reached the desired degree. One morning he held it there too long ... and broke the thermometer.

On reading the minutes of the trustee's meetings one finds that it was always a struggle to collect taxes, and that those who had no children attending wanted to close the school during the winter and succeeded in doing so several times. In the early years school might open any month, if and when there was a teacher, and seldom lasted through the full ten months terms.

In 1910 Charlie and Mary Craig started school. The Saulsberry family moved to the Little Bow valley and Myrtle, Thelma, Alma and Joe entered school. Alberta and Oscar came later. Other family's were the Bill Walkers, and the Reem's for a time. Harold Walker and Aileen Walker also attended. When the Little Bow School closed Harvey, Amos, Ivy and Lela Dowling came to Braeside. Harvey is now Dr. H. Dowling of Calgary.

Oscar Wilkinson followed Phil as Secretary-treasurer, and he was followed by H.C. Wingate who held the office for twenty-two years.

Braeside teachers were Miss Bailey, Etta MacDonald, Jessie Jackson, Mr. Cruikshank, Miss Heathcoate, Marion Ash, Miss MacMillan, B.M. McKenzie, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Papst, Mrs. O'Brian, Miss Lewis, Lillian Campbell, Miss Beatty, Ida B. Armstrong, Eva Noble, Miss M. Godkin, Laura Normand, Florence Wright, Mrs. Greenlee, Arnold Roy, Bessie Shields, Patricia Jameson, Dorothy Dwelle, Lorna Rosenberg, Margaret Robblee, Elsie Kraft.

From 1924 to 1926 Braeside School was closed and the pupils transported to Cayley. In 1940 the District joined the Big Division and the school was moved to Cayley to become the home-economics room. It is now a residence in Cayley.

H.C. Wingate

Hudson Wingate was one of the early settlers in the district, homesteading one quarter of 26-17-28-W4, and purchasing the other three quarters from the Hudson Bay Company. His first work was fencing and breaking horses for Fred Ings at his Midway Ranch in 1903.

Hud, as he was called, had one advantage which greatly distinguished him from all his fellow bachelor neighbors - and that was a Chinese cook named Old Tuck. Tuck went shooting gophers with a shot-gun once and aimed at a gopher which wasn't quite far enough away. He got the gopher alright, but at the same time shot off his own big toe!

The homestead shack was replaced in 1917 by the big house now on the land and Mr. Wingate's niece and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Middlehurst, operated the farm for four years. In 1926 Mr. Wingate married an English lady, Mrs. Margaret Potter.

Mr. Wingate was a progressive farmer. He raised purebred percherons and at one time had a herd of twenty purebred Jersey milk cows.

He was Councillor of the Local Improvement District and was secretary-treasurer of Braeside school for many years. He was interested in the affairs of the province, particularly in the farm movement. He was district director of the United Grain Growers Ltd for a number of years, and was a booster for the Wheat Pool. Mr. and Mrs. Wingate were active in UFA and UFWA.

Before he came to Cayley he had owned a restaurant in Coffeeville, Kansas. One lively day he remembered, was in 1893 when the Dalton Gang robbed their last Bank. They tied their horses in front of the Coffeeville Bank, sauntered in and got the money - but there their luck ended. A sharp-eyed barber sized up the situation and shot two of them with a shot-gun as they raced away on their horses. Another member of the gang was captured.

The farm was rented to Harry Townsend for five years and after Mr. Wingate passed away it was sold to Mr. Don Coote. Hudson Wingate was a brother of Mrs. William Phillips.

Philip and Oscar Wilkinson

Philip Ray Wilkinson left his home in London, England and came to Canada in 1901. He had been with a London real-estate firm, but the apprenticeship system gave little promise for the future. As soon as a young clerk was eligible for a regular salary he was let go and another apprentice taken on. In 1900 the family doctor and friend of the Wilkinson family attended a medical conference in eastern Canada and travelled west as far as Winnipeg. He returned to England very enthusiastic about the opportunities he had seen, and advised Phil to go to Canada. Phil's first job here was helping dig a ditch for a waterline to Pat Burn's residence in Calgary.

He filed on his homestead on the Little Bow (NE 4-18-28-W4) in 1903. His brother Oscar, who had just arrived in Canada, filed on the adjoining southwest quarter. Phil worked for Billy McDougall that year at a big hay camp near Nanton

Philip Wilkinson and Hal Calon.

where Burns fed his beef. Others working on the haying crew were Lorne Tiffin, Frank Shier, Charlie Fraser, Evan C. Carr, Arthur Houseman, and Dan McKenzie and Leman from Millett. When the crew moved to McDougall's place on Tongue Creek to put up green feed, Phil drove the rake - a distance of thirty miles or so - and on the return trip rode the sweep. It wasn't the smoothest transportation!

Tom Henry was a neighbor of Phil's and Oscar's. The Indians used to camp near the Henry house, and as Tom was away on cattle business quite frequently, Mrs. Henry was nervous about having them so near. So Tom rode over to the camp one day and told the Indians that they must not stay on his land any more and to please move on. They refused. He said no more but rode to the nearest teepee, uncoiled his rope, threw it over the poles and pulled the teepee to the ground, then rode from one teepee to the other roping and pulling until all were down.

The steep cliff by Wilkinson's house had been used by the Indians, many years before, as a buffalo jump. Phil had quite a number of arrowheads and other artifacts which he had picked up at the foot of the cliff.

He was of a studious nature, and names intrigued him. Mosquito Creek, he said, was originally named "Masquite Creek" because of its brushy banks. It is interesting to note that an early NWMP report refers to the creek as "Masquito". Phil also had ranch holdings on Willow Creek, which he said was first called "White Buffalo Creek".

He recalled some of the prices paid during those first homestead years. Steak was 10¢ a pound at Cayley, but a quarter of beef was entirely steak! In 1908 Sam Hellings sold ordinary lumber for $16.00 to $20.00 per thousand. Edge grain fir was $30.00.

When Braeside School District was organized, Phil was the first Secretary Treasurer. He spent the years from 1912 to 1927 at Patricia Bay, Vancouver Island then returned again to the Little Bow. In 1931 he married Miss Mary Elliot of London, England. In 1948 they sold their land to J. Feyrer and retired to High River, choosing a small home on the Little Bow, the same stream which had rippled by the homestead.

When Phil passed away Mrs. McCorquadale of the High River Times wrote, "High River residents are going to miss Mr. Wilkinson's presence in the town, his quiet friendly greeting and his calm objective observations on the current scene. He was a lifelong student of international history, and a constant reader - probably the most discriminating patron of the local library. His unfailing sense of humor was prized by all his friends and he was a gentle warm-hearted person, governing his life with a spirit of goodwill to everyone".

Oscar, who was sometimes called "Smokey", had a thick head of curly hair and seldom, if ever, wore a hat. He stayed on and managed his own and Phil's

land during the time Phil was at the coast. Later he moved to Victoria where he was an instructor in a school for boys. He had never married. Oscar, too, was a kind and friendly man, highly respected by all who knew him.

The former Mrs. Phil Wilkinson, now Mrs. Hageman, resides in High River. She enjoys painting and writing and at one time published a story book for children which she wrote and illustrated.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Brown and Family

In the fall of 1902 Charlie Brown took the train from Fernie B.C. to the prairies in search of a homestead. He got off the train at Nanton, and with J.T. Cooper of Nanton as locator he chose and filed on the south-east quarter of 28-17-28-W4, three miles east of the Cayley Stockyards. He also filed by proxy on an adjacent quarter for his father. The following spring Charlie and his wife Sadie and young son George settled on the homestead.

Carl Backman, Mrs. C.H. Brown with Audrey and Ralph, Charlie Grono.

They had come first from St. John, New Brunswick to British Columbia. Charlie was a machinist and installed the machinery in sawmills at Moyie and Fernie.

It was a lonely experience for Mrs. Brown that first year in the settler's shack surrounded entirely by the tall waving prairie grass. Some of the homesteaders wives told her that the incessantly waving grass in the unbroken landscape gave them a feeling like seasickness.

George Lane's Mexican Longhorns were a dangerous nuisance to the homesteaders. Mrs. Brown was alone when she noticed a herd of Longhorns heading toward the shack. The sun was shining brightly from behind the cattle, and she ingeniously turned them away by using a mirror to reflect the light into their eyes.

When the Braeside School District was organized in 1907 Charlie Brown was the first Chairman of the school board. The children, George, Bert, Audrey and Ralph all attended Braeside School, and later Cayley.

In 1918 the homestead house was replaced by a fine new home, one of the largest in the district.

Mr. Brown passed away in 1928 and Bert in 1929. Mrs. Brown died in 1948. Audrey, Mrs. Tom Paton of Ardenode died in 1960, and George, who farmed in the Standard district, in 1965.

Ralph owns and operates the family homestead along with his other farmland. Mrs. Ralph Brown is the former Katie Shortt, granddaughter of one of High River's first pioneer families.

Joseph H. Brown

Joseph H. Brown and his wife Lucinda left their home near St. John, New Brunswick to be near their son, Charlie, and his family in Fernie, British Columbia. In 1903 they came to the Cayley district and homesteaded the N.E. 28-17-28-W4th just north of their son's homestead quarter.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown were strong church supporters and Mr. Brown was active in organizing the Methodist Church in Cayley. He built two homes in Cayley. One

on the south-east corner of the village, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Edey, the other a small house on Jamison Street.

Mrs. Brown died in 1919. Several years later he re-married, his second wife being the former Mrs. Jane Hollingsworth. "Grandpa" Brown passed away in 1938. The second Mrs. Brown had predeceased him in 1926.

Charlie Grono

Charlie Grono worked for Cayley farmers for many years including Charlie Brown, J.E. Houghton, H. Houghton, Albert Robblee. He was an inveterate reader of western magazines and books, and the boys (and girls) where he worked never ran short of thrillers. In later years Charlie was clerk at the Gateway Hotel in High River.

Carl Backman

Carl Backman came as a young man from the eastern States and worked in the district for a number of years for Charlie Brown, J.E. Houghton and others. In 1915 he enlisted in the army and served overseas until the end of the war.

The Crismans

Mrs. Mattie Crisman, a widow, and her son Gordon came from Chicago in 1903 or 1904 and took up adjoining homesteads five miles north-east of Cayley (NW and SW 34-17-28-W4). They later purchased SE 32-18-28-W4.

In 1909 they harvested a bumper crop of Banner oats off summerfallow, the yield being 152 bushels per acre.

Gordon Crisman, who had married, returned to the States, and his mother later retired to Spokane where she died. The land was eventually purchased by Jim Baker who sold it to Joe Feyrer.

The William Barker Family

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Barker and their family came from Butte, Montana in 1904 and filed on the NE 22-17-28-W4 located three and a half miles straight east of Cayley. Someone else had filed on it previously but had "thrown it up". Mrs. Barker was a sister of Dan Keller. The Barkers built a grainary first and lived in it until their house was finished. The hired man slept in the wagon.

Bereavement came to the family in their first year in the district when their eleven year old son Billy died. Cemetery ground had yet to be set aside so the boy was buried on a grassy knoll east of the village. Two other burials were later made at the same location.

One calamitous winter night stands out in the family's memory. The Nanton News in November, 1907 wrote of it under the heading "Lost on the Prairie". "Mrs. Barker, four miles east of Cayley, had an extremely unpleasant experience. While her husband was on a business trip to Montana a high wind came up and the flue caught fire. Mrs. Barker ran to O.G. Walker's farm a half mile away for help. Her neighbor hurried to the Barker place leaving Mrs. Barker to follow alone, but in the darkness she wandered off the way and wandered about three miles over the prairie. She found no shelter or landmark to guide her until she came to Gordon Crissman's farm. After the danger of fire was over and Mrs. Barker had not arrived, other neighbors were contacted and a search party began a search with lanterns. In places they were able to distinguish her tracks, but drifting snow

made the task extra difficult, and it was morning before they found her. Mrs. Barker was severely chilled but it is hoped no serious illness will follow the hardship and exposure of the night. It is fortunate that the night was not extremely cold, - although the temperature was below freezing, - or the lady would certainly have perished''.

The Barker children attended Hobart School, and later Braeside, Stella, one of the older girls, was one of the first switchboard operators in the Cayley Post Office and Phone Office.

Mr. Barker was a carpenter and helped build some of the business places in town, including Elves store. He passed away in 1912. His wife was in the hospital with typhoid fever at the time of his death, and the youngest daughter, Pearl, was just a baby. Mrs. Barker moved her family to Nanton and the farm was purchased by Charlie Phillips. It was later the home of the Ted Cumming family.

Stella married Harold Price, the son of a Nanton pioneer family. Stella and Harold, who was a Nanton Bank Manager for some years, moved to Port Angeles, Washington where Harold passed away in 1966.

Olive lives in the Peace River area. Ethel (Mrs. Frank Weldin) and Pearl (Mrs. Wally Ridley) live in Calgary. Fern is deceased.

Frank and his wife Nellie farmed in the Cayley district and were also employed at the Macleay Ranch for many years. Frank died about 1942. Frank and Nellie's daughters were Frankie and Winnifred, and their only son was Jim.

Kitchen Brothers

A great many acres of prairie sod were turned over by Kitchen's big steam outfits, and a great deal of back-breaking work saved for many homesteaders.

E.W. (Ed) Kitchen and E.R. (Roy) Kitchen came to the Cayley district from Sand Creek Oklahoma. Their father had been here prior to their coming but did not remain. They settled on land five miles east of Cayley, and built across the road from one another. Their first homes were two-roomed dwellings and as time progressed additional rooms and improvements were added. Mrs. Ed Kitchen was the former Miss Mabel Brand from Oklahoma. Roy married Miss Effie Walker, also from their home state, and the daughter of a Cayley pioneer family.

The brothers broke land with their steamers over a large area. Large tracts

The Kitchen's steam engines.

were broken for R.L. MacMillan, Jack Drumheller on the CC Ranch, J.T. Cooper and others in the Cayley, Nanton, High River, Vulcan, Champion and Carmangay districts. As well as the engineer each outfit had a ploughman who rode standing on the plough to work the levers. Ed and Roy also operated one of the first steam threshing outfits in the district and did custom threshing for a number of years.

Roy Kitchen

The eldest children of both families attended Hobart and Braeside schools. Horses and buggies took the families to ball games, parties and to visit the neighbors.

Roy's family remained on the farm. When he and Mrs. Kitchen retired to High River, Don took over the farming operations. Over the years Roy served as Councillor for the M.D. of Highwood, on the High River town council and on the High River Hospital board.

In 1920 the Ed Kitchen family moved to Salem, Oregon. Ruth (Mrs. Busch), Robert and Lorne still reside in Salem. Zelma (Mrs. Hokanson) lives in Portland.

Pearl (Mrs. Mitchell Dobie) resides in Stavely, W.E. (Bill) Kitchen and his wife, the former Florence Denoon, live in Nanton. Ruby (Mrs. "Chub" Boutland resides in Calgary, Lucille (Mrs. Harry Smith) and Lucene (Mrs. Alfred Wheeler) in Nanton. Dorothy (Mrs. George Cruikshank) is in Calgary and Donald E, who married Eileen Walters still operates the farm but now reside in Nanton. Don and Eileen have two daughters, Judy and Nancy.

William Phillips Family

It was a four day journey by train when Mr. and Mrs. Wm Phillips and sons, Arthur and Charlie, came in 1903 from Lind, Washington to begin life on their Cayley homestead. Spokane, Nelson, Fernie and Macleod were all overnight stops. Mr. Phillips travelled in a colonist car, which had been chartered by a settler headed for Crossfield. Mr. Phillips intended unloading his horse, buggy and other items at Nanton. However, the station agent at Nanton refused to allow anything to be taken from the car, so it was necessary to go to Crossfield and drive the horse and buggy the eighty or ninety miles back to Cayley.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Phillips.

Arthur was old enough to file on his own quarter, giving the Phillips the north half of 24-17-28-W4. Their neighbours, the Thomas Snodgrass family, had the south half of the same section.

There were two tons of grass on every acre, the hazard of prairie fire was very real, so the first task undertaken by the two neighbours was to plough a double fireguard around the entire section. Eight or ten furrows were ploughed with the walking plough pulled by Snodgrass' three Indian ponies. A strip of grass three or four rods wide was left, and another eight or ten furrows ploughed. The intervening strip of grass was then burned off.

The section was also fenced with three strands of barbed wire, but not partitioned. At that time most homesteaders fenced a small pasture for horses and milk cows and let it go at that.

It was possible to file on land at the age of fifteen and have the land held until the age of eighteen was reached. The Phillips' had their eye on a nearby quarter for Charlie who was then fifteen, but they delayed making application a bit too long and found that the quarter had been claimed by another settler just a day or so before. Mr. Phillip later filed on a quarter for Charlie in the Grassy Lake district. Charlie's uncle, H. Wingate, went with him to find the homestead. They had a map, rented a flea-bitten team in Burdette and drove right to the quarter. Charlie began proving up on it about 1910, but the country was so dry that he relinquished it and returned to Cayley.

Mange was a persistent scourge of the cattle herds for many years. After the telephone lines were built, guy wires anchoring poles to the ground would be thick as ropes with hair rubbed from the itching backs of mangy cattle. Even coyotes caught the scourge. Dipping vats were set up at strategic points, and Charlie remembers helping to drive their small herd to the vat at Jim Glendenning's, and seeing three thousand head of cattle being held in wait, and in the process of being driven through the hot sulphur solution. The vats were deep and the cattle disappeared from sight before regaining their footing to walk out and up the opposite ramp. Those with mangy coats got a good hard scrubbing in the solution before being allowed on through. Two weeks later the whole procedure had to be repeated.

The Phillips boys caught suckers in the Little Bow in the springtime and in the winter enjoyed the thrill of hunting coyotes on horseback. Charlie loved sports of all kinds and won prizes in running, jumping and shot-putt at sports meets throughout the country.

Arthur Phillips lost his life in a drowning accident in northern Alberta. Mr. and Mrs. William Phillips retired to Spokane in 1910.

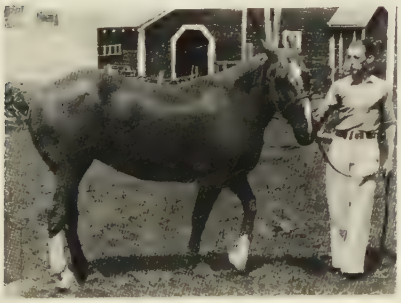
Charlie and Tina Phillips

Charlie, who had married Miss Christina McCaw, (sister of Mrs. Ed Elves) purchased the former Wm Barker homestead from Mr. L. Couey and lived on it for quite a number of years. It was later sold to Ted Cummings, and the Phillips moved to the States for a time, returning later to his father's farm.

Charlie maintained his interest in sports and played baseball on the Nanton, Stavely, and Little Bow teams. Later he promoted sports for younger people, and at one time started a wrestling club in Cayley. He hunted coyotes with hounds for many years, and sold pelts at prices ranging from one dollar to twenty dollars. One winter his hounds killed 29 coyotes. Tina remembers how she had to struggle to empty the dishwater with nine coyote hounds at the back door!

The year 1919 was very dry, and Charlie remembers taking out the binder to cut what there was on the low spots, but it rained about the first of September and the oats grew to a great height. He cut it green and sold oat bundles all over the country.

He had a big 30-60 Rumley oil pull and threshed throughout the country for twenty years. He says he made more money threshing grain than growing it. He had the usual bunk car and cook car and they trailed a cow along behind for the milk supply. The "roustabout" milked the cow, along with hauling water, fuel, groceries, and all the other extra jobs. Charlie had three bundle racks of his own and hired the other nine. Men drove teams and bundle racks from as far as Red Deer and Rimbey to get in on the threshing run. An ordinary run was thirty days, and an average day's output was 3500 bushels.



Chas. Phillips' "Hairless Horse" held by Ken Phillips.

Another of Charlie's enterprises was the exhibition of his "Hairless Horse". The horse, which he bought from Johnny Elves, had been born an ordinary black colt, but had later shed all its hair. In 1941 Charlie showed it to 10,000 people at the Calgary Stampede, and took it around the circuit to Edmonton, Saskatoon and Regina. He also exhibited it in Washington, Oregon and California. Ripley featured it in his "Believe it or Not" column as having "black hide as soft as velvet".

Their daughter Hazel, now Mrs. Leo Kulzer, lives in Valley, Washington. Gordon makes his home in Chela Falls, Washington, Lloyd in Nakusp, B.C. Ken who married Dot Denison of Cayley resides in High River. Keith married Patricia Holmes of High River and lives in Provost.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Phillips are now retired and live in High River. The family homestead was sold in 1959 to Mr. Roy Henderson.

Thomas D. Snodgrass

My father, Thomas D. Snodgrass was born in West Virginia in 1855 and my mother, Pearl Griffith Snodgrass was born in 1863 at Sacremento, Calif. They were married there. In 1880 they came to Goldendale, Washington, a thirty day trip with horses and wagon, and homesteaded there. Later they farmed at Newberg, Oregon, then heard of land available in Alberta, so like many others, they came to sunny Alberta.

My father filed on a homestead five miles east of Cayley. Father, mother, Elfie 17, Lucy 12, I (Florence) 7 and brother Quay, 2 years, came in late summer 1904. Wesley and John came later but Wesley soon returned to Oregon.

Mr. & Mrs. Snodgrass

Lucy, Dick & Elfie

A freight car was chartered and my father and brother Dick came with the car. There was the work team, "Hanks and Bolivar", chickens, cows and "Sam" the Jersey bull. Also in the car was the furniture, including the organ. Mother played the organ by ear, also played the accordion and Dick played the harmonica so we had lots of music in our home.

We had a house in Nanton so lived there part of the time. We attended school there and sometimes at a school some distance from Cayley. I don't remember the name of the school but it was the one that Ralph and Clifford Chaffee attended.

Our first barn was a hay barn. The walls and roof were hay. The framework was built from poles hauled from the foothills, same as the first fence posts. One room of the barn was a chicken house and the varmints often dug in to reach the chickens.

The homestead shack was about 12x14'. In this room were folding beds which folded up under a shelf and a bright colored curtain hung over it during the day. So with some cushions on the chairs Mother had a chance to have a homestead color scheme.

I remember a sod house some place north and west of the Wingate place that I visited. I inquired about that a few years ago but no one remembered it. The buffalo wallows on the prairies were very interesting. One especially deep and big one was around a large rock in our field. And there were the prairie fires! One time, after a fire someplace, several of the men were eating at our place when a Mounted Police who had been on duty out that way stopped in. Mother had him come in to eat. A Mounted Police! I was as thrilled as if King Edward VII himself was there on the homestead.

We did our trading in Nanton at Fetherstons Store and at Wickens Store in Cayley. It was really trading then for Mother's eggs and butter were taken to the store. The eggs were packed in containers of grain to lessen breakage. Milk, butter and eggs were kept cool in an outside cellar, a dugout with a framework covered with sod. That was a favorite place for us to run up and sight a coyote

for our two coyote hounds. Then as we pointed, away went the hounds, but it was generally just a chase.

One time we and a neighbor and her children went picking saskatoons on the Little Bow in our big wagon. With us were the two hounds and our small rat terrier "Tiny" which was such a pet. When we came to a small coulee there were a lot of coyotes with their pups and the dogs chased them to their dens. When we drove up close the pups went in the dens and the coyotes circled around us, the hounds were under the wagon. The team was uneasy and so were we children so we stayed in the wagon while our mothers put dirt and rocks in the holes and the boxes we had used for seats were broken up and used like stakes in the holes. Several days later someone went back and the dens had not been disturbed. The coyotes killed our pet that day so friends of ours, the Stewarts, gave us old "Noble", a big Newfoundland dog. A story alone could be written about him.

The snaring of the gophers is another story. Father gave us five cents for each gopher we could catch with snare or traps. He soon cut the price to one cent for financial reasons. In time we lost interest, perhaps the first labor strike on a homestead.

Although we moved and bought a home at McMinnville, Oregon in 1909, my father kept his land and interest in Alberta, going back for awhile each summer, The land was rented. He decided to resume his farming again in 1912. My brother Quay and I were in school in Oregon. My father and mother went back to the farm where he died suddenly that fall on the farm at Cayley. My mother lived in McMinnville where she passed away in 1950.

John (Jack) married Millie Golladay whose family homesteaded in the Cayley area. His homestead was near Vulcan. She passed away when their two daughters were small. After several years he married Eva Rench Karnes of Vulcan and later moved to Oregon.

Dick married Della Golladay. His homestead joined my fathers. When they moved to Oregon Mother bought their land so the two places were farmed together. The land is still held in the family. Elfie, Lucy, Quay and I married in Oregon. Elfie died in 1939, Dick in 1920, Lucy in 1945 and Jack in 1955. We have no relatives in Alberta.

Mrs. Theodore (Florence) Johnston

The Howards

Charles H. Howard came from Missouri as a young bachelor about 1904, and homesteaded NW 26-17-28 W 4 three miles straight east of Cayley. He also purchased all of Section 27. Charlie and Sally, who also came from Missouri, were married in 1907.

Sally & Charlie Howard

Mr. and Mrs. Howard were kind neighbors and active church and community workers. Mrs. Howard was a wonderful cook and hostess, and the many Braeside teachers who boarded with them found their home a pleasant place to stay. Mr. Howard was a progressive farmer. He did a lot of threshing around the country for quite a number of years.

Their only son Rea attended school at Braeside and Cayley, and at Mount Royal College in Calgary. They retired to Calgary in 1929. Mrs. Howard passed away in 1931, and Mr. Howard a short time later. The farm was sold to Harry Townsend and is now owned by Roy Henderson. The comfortable home built by Mr. Howard was moved to High River and is now the residence of Mrs. Tannas, Sr.

Rea married the former Wilma Couey, the daughter of another Cayley pioneer family, in 1966.

The Coote Family

Destiny led George Gibson Coote a long way from his first position as bank clerk back in Oakville, Ontario, via a homestead in the Cayley district, to Member of Parliament and Director of the Bank of Canada.

Following his apprenticeship with the Bank of Hamilton in Ontario and further experience in Winnipeg and Kamloops he was transferred to Nanton in 1906 as manager of the first bank at that point.

George Coote.

Partly for his health's sake he filed on a homestead five miles north-east of Cayley and became one of this country's first commutors! Each day he drove his horse and buggy back and forth the ten miles between his homestead and Nanton. His mother, Mrs. C.W. Coote, and his sister Marion came west, Mrs. Coote filing on an adjoining quarter. His brother Bob bought the Grant Craig homestead a few year's later. In 1910 George married Miss Jeanette McKinnon of Nanton.

He became interested in the United Farmers movement and when that organization became a political party, Mr. Coote was elected Member of Parliament for Macleod Federal Constituency, and held the post from 1921 to 1935. In parliament he belonged to the "Ginger Group" - a small group of progressive minded men with exceptional ability and courage. He was especially interested in finance, and worked for the establishment of a national bank.

In 1936 he became a director for the Alberta Wheat Pool, and the same year his long standing interest in matters of finance was recognized by his appointment to the Board of Directors of the Bank of Canada. He remained as Director until 1955. He was also secretary of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture during its formative years.

Mr. Coote passed away at his home in Nanton in 1959. His son Don continued on with the family farm. His other son, George, resides in Calgary. Don Coote follows the tradition of public service set by his father, having served on the Board of the Foothills School Division for more than fifteen years. Mrs. Don Coote is the former Miss Mabel Walters of Nanton. They have a daughter Patricia and a son Roderick.

Bob Coote lost his first wife. They had a daughter, Norma. He later married a Cayley school teacher, Miss Lillian Evans of Parkland. Bob sold his farm to his brother George and went into the grocery business at Leduc, where he remained until he died.

Fred Coote enlisted in the army of the first World War and was killed in action at the Battle of the Somme.

Donald Harcus Coote

I, Donald H. Coote was born in 1912 in Nanton where Mother and Dad used to spend their winters. I attended school at Braeside for part of two terms and then received the rest of my schooling in Nanton. We came back to the farm every year for the summer holidays.

I remember trying to ride a stubborn shetland pony to school, I usually ended up walking most of the way for often the pony would lay down and roll about half way to school and I couldn't get on again without something to stand on.

I came back to stay on the farm in 1936 and rented the farm from Dad in 1938.

I married Mable Walters of Nanton in August 1940, and we are still on the farm.

We have two children, Patricia born in 1945, presently attending U.A.C. and Roderick born in 1950, still in High School in Cayley.

We have added to the original holdings an adjoining half section which was the H.C. Wingate home place.

George Frederwick Coote

George F. Coote better known at home as "Bud" was also born in Nanton in 1918. He attended school in Nanton and spent his summers on the farm. He spent one summer working on the farm after finishing High School but decided there must be an easier way to make a living and went to University of Alberta and took civil and then Petroleum engineering. He is a partner in a Geophysical firm at Calgary. He has travelled extensively in his field of work which has taken him to U.S.A. South America, the Artic and lately in Isreal.

He married Margaret Keillor of Edmonton in 1942 and they have a family of 4. Mara Louise, Malcolm, Jennette and Joann.

James E. Houghton and J. Orr Houghton Family

In early spring of 1909 we came from Culver, Indiana, and settled on NE 34-17-28-W4, about four miles north-east of Cayley. Our family consisted of my father, James Orr Houghton, my mother, Clara, brother Ernest, sisters Dorothy and Leota, and myself - Cleo. My grandfather, James Egbert Houghton, came from Minot, North Dakota a few weeks later and made his home with us until he built on his own quarter which joined ours on the west. We had become interested in homesteading through my uncle Homer Houghton who had come to the country earlier and who located our quarters and filed for us by proxy.

J.E. Houghton.

I can remember disposing of most of our belongings and bidding tearful farewells to three generations of relatives who feared for our safety out in that'wild Indian country'. After the long train ride to Calgary where my father reported at the Land Titles Office, we went to Uncle Homer's near Parkland until Dad and my uncle could build a house for us.

Dad and Uncle Homer were invited to stay at Bob Carrothers while they were building. The house was simple - two rooms up and two rooms down with a storm-shed off the kitchen. We arrived before the house was finished so we too were taken into the Carrothers home. Too much cannot be said for the hospitality of this pioneer family - but that was the spirit of the community.

Dad, who was handy with tools, built cupboards, table and benches. When Grandfather came he brought household furnishings so we lived in more comfort. Unfortunately he had been exposed to smallpox on the settler's train and came

down with it shortly after he arrived. Dad and all four of us children caught it too, but luckily Mother didn't and was able to nurse us all. Again the Carrothers family came to our aid by bringing our groceries from McDonald's Store.

As soon as our quarantine was lifted Mother walked across the fields with us and enrolled us at Braeside School. I can remember as if it were yesterday - the children crowding 'round us - and Miss Bailey who was sweet and friendly.

Dad and Grandfather engaged the Kitchen Brothers to do the sod breaking. Winter wheat was sown the first year and cowbarn, horsebarn, chicken house and pig pen built. Gradually we were raising horses, cattle, pigs, chickens and turkeys, and we children were initiated into doing chores.

Our big garden was a family project. I liked it all except when we had to take pails and little sticks and knock the bugs off the potatoes. We built a root-house for the vegetables, and bins of sand kept them as fresh as when they were pulled from the garden.

At first we had to haul drinking water from neighbors. Then we drilled a well and other neighbors came to our place to fill their water cans. On dry years we drove our stock a mile down to the Little Bow to water.

During the summer we children roamed the prairie near our home picking bouquets of wild flowers and searching for Indian relics. Occasionally we found arrow-heads or small tools. Two or three Indian families pitched their tepees just beyond our potato patch. We watched them for hours at a time. Another activity was drowning out gophers and saving their tails for the two cents bounty offered. Below the barn was a pond where we sailed home-made boats and a raft that Ernie built.

When we left Indiana we had given away all our dolls and toys. We missed our dolls very much so Mother had us gather seed balls that resemble cotton. We called it "prairie cotton". When Dad went to town Mother had him get three china doll heads. With a lot of sewing on her part and a lot of cotton picking on ours we each had a doll before summer was over. Mrs. Mattie Crissman contributed material for doll clothes and helped Mother make them.

On our first Christmas Joe and Mabel Sloane took us to the Christmas program in the Cayley Methodist Church. There we saw our first real fir Christmas tree, all lighted up. The branches were laden with toys, and each of us spotted a dolly we would like to have. Mother had told us not to expect anything as Santa wouldn't know we had moved from Indiana. When jolly old Santa bounced in and began distributing toys I thought I heard my name called but couldn't believe my ears. Mother and Mrs. Sloane leaned over and nudged me to go forward - "He means you!" I went forward and Santa placed in my arms the very doll I had admired. Both my little sisters got the dolls they wanted too. Talk about miracles! We really believed that Santa was an all-knowing guy. It was years before we learned that we had Mrs. Sloane to thank for our dollies.

One winter Dad helped Ernie build a big sled which we took to school for noontime coasting down the coulee hill. The sled was so big that four kids could sit on it, each holding a smaller child. Sometimes we went coasting in the moonlight. Mother and Dad would go with us and when we got home Mother would warm us up with a big kettle of hot chocolate.

There was a big pond in Charlie Brown's back field. Ernie, George Brown, Walter Carrothers and perhaps some of the other boys kept the ice swept off, and that is where many of us learned to skate. The parents moved a granary over and

put an old stove in it. The boys took turns hauling fuel, sweeping the room, and providing lanterns for light. Some of the parents skated too and I can remember at least one masquerade party.

We had indoor parties too where we played old fashioned games like charades. If the party happened to be at Keller's home we would have a taffy pull. Mrs. Keller was a master-hand at making the taffy. The Keller farm with its grove of trees was a favorite place for picnics in the summer.

The Little Bow valley was another picnic spot, especially at Al Henry's. The ladies brought picnic baskets and the young men brought their wildest horses for bronk riding.

Sometimes Sunday School and worship services were held in Braeside School. Often in the winter Dad took us to church in town in the big bob-sled. He put straw and blankets in the bottom and we had heated rocks to keep our feet warm. The sides of the sleigh box made a good wind-break. Any of the neighbors who wished a ride were waiting by the road when we came by.

There were hardships to endure in the new land and we had little money, but it was a good life and a clean one. Our bodies were nourished with wholesome food and our free time was spent in clean wholesome activities. I can look back on my childhood as a good one.

My grandfather continued farming for a number of years after we left the district. Just after the first world war he built the house and barns which remain on the farm. He was a very hospitable man and was active in the community. He passed away while visiting in San Francisco in 1930. The farm was sold to Jim Baker and is now owned by the J. Feyrer family.

Ernest farmed in the Cayley district for several years before he, his wife Doris, and baby Doreen went homesteading in the Raven district west of Innisfail He and his wife now live in Calgary.

My father passed away in San Francisco in 1951 and my Mother in Seattle in 1959. My sisters and I all reside in the Seattle area. I am still teaching elementary grades as I have done all my adult life.

Mrs. Willard Kenfield

Grant Craig Family

My father C.G. (Grant) Craig was born at Beavertown, Ontario. He came to Alberta in 1900 as C.P.R. brakeman. He returned to Ontario and married Mariam Robertson. Her father, William Robertson, was Nanton's first Secretary-Treasurer.

In 1906 he returned west with his family and was employed at various jobs in the Nanton district. For a time he was mange inspector for the Alberta Government.

Our homestead was east and north of Cayley in the Braeside district. It was sold to Bob Coote and is now Don Coote's home quarter. After its sale we moved to my grandfather's farm on the Little Bow east of Nanton. From 1917 to 1934 my father was a grain buyer for the National Elevator Company. He was later employed by the Parks Department at Banff. My mother passed away in 1949, my father in 1954.

Our first home on the homestead was a three roomed shack, but was a fair size with a large kitchen and two bedrooms. In real cold weather you sure stayed close to the stove.

We never lacked something to do. We had our chores and work, and in the winter we skated on the slough or went sleighing on the coulee or river hills. In summer we snared gophers or drowned them out of their holes, or went pike-fishing or swimming in the Little Bow which was a short distance from the homestead. We also went berry-picking, and once in a while there was a picnic to go to. There were muskrats, weasels and coyotes to try to trap - and mostly it was try.

We considered it a great day when we could go to town with the folks, and a sports day or fair was looked forward to for weeks. For one thing it meant we might get twenty cents or so to spend!

Braeside School was across and up the road about 100 yards. We didn't like it so close because we had to go home for dinner. We thought the others were lucky to be able to bring a lunch and have more time to play.

I remember the time one of our teachers, Mrs. O'Brien, was to go to the teacher's convention in Calgary. She was boarding at our place and I was to drive her to Cayley to catch the evening train. I had the team and democrat and my mother sent a crate of ducks to be expressed to Calgary. It was in the fall and got dark early. While we were crossing a narrow grade over a slough a board came loose on the duck crate and two ducks escaped. I jumped out and tried to fix the crate. Mrs. O'Brien jumped out to help, but slipped into the slough and got wet to her waist. That was the end of the convention for her. We turned around and went home and she phoned the other families in the district that school was on as usual. The kids blamed me for losing two days' holiday and I was told plenty about it!

There were five children in the family. I was born in the East, the rest in Alberta. Mary and Florence live in Calgary, William at Strathmore, Stanley at Bassano. I, Charles, farm at Nanton. There are ten grandchildren.

Although my father was not one of the earliest settlers I consider that he was one of those who helped make Alberta what it is today.

My wife, the former Winona Tuttle of Nanton, and I were married in 1939 and made our home in Cayley for the next twelve years. Our sons David and Brian were both born while we lived in Cayley, and attended school there for several years.

Charles Craig

Hoake and Graham

Rodger Hoake and his uncle Rodger Graham rented the Charles Phillips farm from 1907 to 1909. They had a big threshing outfit and threshed around the country for a number of years. Rodger Hoake married Izola (Polly) Parr in 1910. Polly was a sister of Gale and Allen Parr who worked for the Hoake's for a number of years. Rodger and Polly purchased Section 25-17-28-W4 about 1910.

The Hoake's purchased a home in Nanton and the land was rented to a number of tennants including the Bill Bradley family and the Doug Stevenson family. In 1945 the land was sold to Roy Henderson. Mr. Hoake passed away in 1963, Mrs. Hoake in 1964.

Mr. and Mrs. Graham moved to Washington.

Ted and Eva Cummings

In 1911 Ted Cumming left Devonshire, England to come to Canada and worked for his uncle at Crampton, Ontario for three years before coming to Cayley where he worked for Herb George for several years and later for Jack Atcheson.

Ted rented a quarter section in 1919 which is now owned by Houlden Brothers, that year he was hailed out and seeded more grain than he threshed; the next year he and Eva Eaglesham were married in the Presbyterian Church with the Cayley Orchestra of which the bride was a member, playing the wedding music. They then moved to Firman Crawfords farm which they rented for ten years before buying the Charlie Phillips farm. The next ten years were the toughest when even the phone was a luxury and had to go.

Five children were born to this family and are all living in Alberta. Keith who is an engineer, resides in Edmonton; Lloyd a geologist, lives in Calgary as do Doreen, (Mrs. Jack Orman) and Elaine (Mrs. Cliff Edey). Wesley lives at home.

Ted was a member of the Cayley church choir for more than forty years.

Mr. and Mrs. Cumming sold their farm in 1965 and retired to High River.

Eva Cumming

John Taylors

Mr. and Mrs. John Taylor came from Waterville, Washington in 1917 and bought the Swann section. (19-17-27-W4)

Mrs. Taylor was a sister of D.D. McDonald. The family was active in all community endeavours, especially in the UFA and UFWA. The children, Ernie, Art and Helen attended Braeside school. Following the deaths of the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Taylor took over the farm, and their three daughters, Lorraine, Freda and Kay went to school in Cayley. Ernie now resides in Calgary. Art married Helen Reems and they farmed in the community for many years. Their only son, Douglas was killed in a car accident while still of school age. Art is deceased but his wife, Helen still resides in the district. Helen Taylor married Harold (Doc) Walker. She passed away in 1962.

Charles Schacht

Charlie Schacht came from Wisconsin with his family in 1907 to make his home in Alberta. His father purchased land on the North bank of the Little Bow.

At one time this land was owned by the Almos Brothers, who were former policemen from San Francisco, later they sold out to a man named Salsbury. Mr. Schacht Sr. purchased the land from Salsbury and it is owned at the present time by Mr. Charlie Schacht.

Charlie can remember going to his first school, the Little Bow school. Later on as the land south of the Little Bow became settled and families moved in with children, a new school was built. This was Braeside School. Mr. Schacht became one of the first trustees. Charlie has some fond memories of his early life but one of them was not the time when he was doing the janitor work at the school, for $3.00 a month, which meant going to school an hour early to get the fire going and water in. There were always many complaints about the temperature of the school.

Charlie has two sisters, Elsie (Mrs. Al Henry) - now deceased - and Martha,

who is Mrs. Prosser of High River, and one brother Albert, who was killed when riding in the Little Bow Valley.

In 1947 Charlie married Miss Bessie Todd of Oyen. They have two children, a daughter Lucille and a son Bobby.

William Eaglesham Family

In 1906 Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Eaglesham and their six children left Clifford, Ontario and settled on a farm at McTaggart, Saskatchewan near Weyburn. Three years later Mr. Eaglesham came to Cayley and bought a half section of land from E.J. Miller and built a house and barn that fall and on March 3, 1909 the family moved here on a beautiful day with a chinook blowing and snow melting which was a great surprise after the thirty below temperatures they left the day before in Saskatchewan.

The family attended the Braeside school which had just been built the previous year. At that time school vacation was usually in January and February on account of the severe weather.

Mr. Eaglesham served on the board of trustees for quite a number of years, also on the board of the Presbyterian Church.

The Presbyterian Church in the morning, Union Sunday School in the afternoon, and Methodist Church at night was the order of the day every Sunday with at least five youngsters piling into the buggy behind the little blue pony.

In the winter the young people of the district held skating parties on a slough in what is now Ralph Brown's field but to them it was not just a slough, they named it "Moonbeam Lake". Every winter Artie Carruthers flooded it and moved a granary there for the skaters to change their shoes in, and a bonfire was lit to warm cold fingers.

Mrs. Eaglesham was a member of the Ladies Aid and of the U.F.W.A. but for quite a number of years did not enjoy very good health and passed away in 1936 at seventy years of age. Mr. Eaglesham lived to be eighty-three and passed on in 1949.

Of the six children, five are still living. Eva, who is Mrs. Ted Cumming, lives in High River. Anne who took her nurses training in the Calgary General Hospital and nursed for a number of years in the Henry Ford Hospital and later in the Health Department. Anne is now Mrs. James Becker living in Detroit.

Margaret, who taught school in Cayley, Coaldale and Lethbridge, is now retired and living in Lethbridge.

Elliott has been an electrician for a number of years, working for the city of Seattle and will retire there this year.

John who was a District Agriculturist in Red Deer was killed in a car accident near Bowden in 1951.

Hugh farms the original farm and raises purebred Shorthorn cattle. He married the former Gwen Thomas of High River and they have three sons, Douglas, David and Denton.

Eva Cumming

The Robblee's

Albert Robblee, native of Prince Edward Island, came to Regina in 1900 as a teacher in that area, and in 1903 took up a homestead at Earl Grey, about fifty miles north of Regina. In 1907 he went back to Prince Edward Island and married Ida Robinson, and brought his bride back to a "sod house" on the homestead. The house was plastered and painted white with a cottage-style, shingled roof and many who saw it could not believe that it was made of sods.

They came to the Cayley district in 1913, buying the John Marth homestead east of town. In 1917 they sold their farm to Ed Elves, and bought a half section two miles north and east from there. This was the Johns homestead, which had been taken over by Henry Schnelle. The other quarter was bought from J.H. Brown. In 1921 the Robblee's moved to Rahway, N.J. and rented the farm to Bill Sutermeister for three years. Mr. Robblee hoped he could see a specialist in the East who could help his loss of hearing. These three years they ran a market garden with his brother Charlie, but when he got no apparent help for his hearing they returned to Cayley. The call of the West must have been born in the family, for when they returned, after visiting in Prince Edward Island for four months on the way back, Alex asked his Mother if they would always live here. She hedged an answer, "Why?". He replied, "I hope so, for this is the nicest place we've ever been." They remained here until they retired to Calgary in 1948.

For several years after they moved to Cayley, a step-nephew, Earl Toombs lived with them and went to school in town. This was between 1916 and 1921. His brother Stanley also called the Robblee's home for the years he worked in the Cayley district from 1919 to 1930. These boys both moved back East and married. Earl now lives in New Brunswick, and Stan in Cohasset, Mass.

The Robblee's have three children. Margaret became a teacher, then married Bill Wickens in 1938, and live south of town on the Wicken's farm. They have one son Jack also farming near by.

Alex graduated in Agriculture from the University of Alberta, and went on to receive his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, and is now a professor in the University of Alberta. He married Peggy Tredger of Edmonton in 1945, and they have four children, Jim, Neil, Jean and Nancy.

Stuart who graduated in Agriculture also, spent some time in Wainwright as District Agriculturist there, before working for Canada Packers Feeds, and now lives in Edmonton. He married Mabel Pratt of Camrose in 1946, and they have three children, Bob, Norman and Margaret.

Margaret Wickens

Mr. and Mrs. A.N. Robblee
On occasion of their
Diamond Wedding Anniversary
July, 16, 1967.

McPhail Family

My parents Mary (McIntyre) and Donald L. McPhail came from Fernie B.C. to Nanton in 1904 where my father and Uncle Dan McIntyre had a real estate office. We homesteaded in the Brant district and later bought the O.G. Walker place three miles east of Cayley.

I worked in the Bank of Hamilton in 1917. Mr. M.R. Morrison was Manager and Charleton Wickens was teller.

We had many hardships when we first came to the country, due mainly to frost, hail and prairie fire. There were times when we used cow chips for fuel. Horses and wagon provided transportation for many years. Then we got a democrat and thought we were well off. We always had a very nice house, except that the homestead shack was small. I remember we children were all afraid when the coyotes howled at night.

There were eleven children in the family, seven girls and four boys. My brother Archie McPhail lives in Calgary and John at Summerland, B.C. My eldest sister Isabella, who is now 86 years old lives in Venice, California, as does my youngest sister, Grace. Another sister, Mae McKinnon who has been ill for a number of years is in Claresholm. I, Dolly Wiley, live in Edmonton.

The Wiley Brothers and George Wiley Family

Jim and George Wiley first heard of the Cayley district from the Chaffee and Couey families who came from the same part of Oregon. About 1910 Jim and George came to Alberta and worked first at the sawmill in High River. The next year Jim worked for Charlie Chaffee and George for Linc Couey. Later the brothers farmed the Bowman place, and also the Jack Wickens farm. A third brother, Marvin, joined them a few years later.

George married Dolly McPhael in 1918, and when her father passed away in 1922 they took over the McPhael farm (now Stadlwiser's). George, who had long been interested in the possibilities of fur-farming, then suggested that his brothers join with him in establishing a silver fox farm. They went into the business in quite an extensive scale and Wiley's Fox Farm became an attraction for people visiting in the district.

In 1929 the fur farm was moved to High River. In 1941 George sold out to Jim and he and Dolly moved to Edmonton. Marvin now farms near Red Deer.

When George and Dolly lived at Cayley the two boys Don and Jack, attended Braeside School. Braeside teachers boarded at Wiley's and Mrs. Wiley recalls the time when Miss Pat Jameson was with them and the school board turned down her request for money for a Christmas concert. Dolly came to the rescue and put on a card-party at the house, charging twenty five cents for the evening. The party was a success, so Pat had her Christmas tree, and George was Santa! The next teacher was Bessie Shields. Friendship with both teachers remained through the years.

Donald and his wife, the former Ferne McKeage of Blackie, with their two sons live in England. Jack and his family reside in Prince George. George Wiley passed away in 1964, and Mrs. Wiley resides in Edmonton.

W.W. Bradley Family

W.W. Bradley, wife Jessie and six year old Edith moved to Cayley in 1919 from Chase, B.C. They first lived on the Ransom place east of town. In 1920 a son, Robert was born and in 1922 a daughter, Frances. They lived in several locations east of town namely; G.G. Coote, R.C. Hoak and Clifford Chaffee farms.

In November of 1929 they left Cayley to make their home in Innisfail.

Mr. Bradley passed away in Chilliwack, B.C. in 1949. Mrs. Bradley, now Mrs. Donald Cameron, still lives in Chilliwack. Edith, Mrs. Reg. Marshall, lives in Innisfail, Alta. Robert is in Cache Creek, B.C. and Frances, Mrs. Douglas Morrison, resides in Grassy Lake, Alta.

Edith Marshall

Mr.and Mrs. James Henderson

Mr. and Mrs. James Henderson came from Fermanagh in Northern Ireland to the United States where they spent several years before moving to Cayley in 1923. They purchased a farm, seven miles east of Cayley, from Jack Vance.

Mr. Henderson had a pair of grey mules which he used for most of the farm work and drove to church on Sunday for many years.

Recalling the difficulties and pleasures of farm life, Mrs. Henderson remembers most of all the wonderful friendship and kindness of their neighbors, especially the Robinsons, LePatourels and Fred Edeys.

Mr. Henderson passed away in 1941. A plaque in his memory may be seen on the back of a pew, in Wood Memorial Church, which was donated by Mrs. Henderson in honor of her husband.

The farm was rented to Charlie Koch for a year, later to Art Stevenson. It was purchased by Andy McIlvride and farmed by Andy's brother, Bob. In 1947 Andy sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Russell Lyon.

Mrs. Henderon retired to Nanton in 1942, later moving to High River. She passed away in 1966 at the age of 86 years.

Frank Boswell

Mr. Frank Boswell came to Canada from England in 1901. His wife, Mary Galley, also came from England. She came in 1924 when they were married.

They had two girls, Marjorie and Muriel. Marjorie died at the age of seventeen and Muriel married George Hornby.

Harry and Estella Townsend

My father, mother and I arrived in the Cayley district in 1930. They had moved from Nanton and had partly purchased the Howard farm three miles east and half a mile north of the village. As a result of the depression they gave it back to the Howards and continued to rent the land from them and later from their son, Ray until the 1940's. The family moved in 1938 to the Wingate farm five miles east of town.

In 1939 our country school closed down and the pupils were transported to the school in Cayley. Braeside school house was moved into town and was made the Home Ec. room. My last teacher at Braeside was Miss Elsie Kraft, now Mrs. W. Colliton of Blackie. Our van driver was Alex Tetachuck.

We moved to Nanton in 1943 where my father bought a farm, moving from there to Calgary in 1950.

There were three children. Beryl Elaine, now Mrs. A.E. McGregor, Calgary, Harry James (Jim) New Zealand, but on his way to Peru. Patricia Ann, now Mrs. K.D. McIvor, Edmonton.

One of my father's favorite stories was about a cow he sold during the depression and he was sent the net proceeds in the form of a cheque for thirteen cents!

Beryl McGregor

William Eld

Mr. and Mrs. William Eld came to Canada from Minnesota in 1910 with two children, Chester and Wilmer. They settled in Parkland where Wilmer passed away in November 1910. Three other children were born at Parkland, Earl, Freida and William.

The family moved to Cayley in 1940. The youngest son, William Louis Eld was killed in Italy during the Second World War - on September 13, 1944. They moved to Nanton in 1945. Mr. Eld passed away in 1952. Mrs. Eld resides in Nanton.

The Stadlwisers

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Stadlwiser purchased the Jensen quarter and the west half of the Howard Section in 1955 and moved here from west of Nanton the following spring. They bought the east half of the Howard Section in 1960.

They have one daughter, Evelyn, at Salmo, B.C. and she has a son and a daughter.

Their only son, Lawrence, and his family moved to the Gardner quarter in 1958 and to the Tony Stadlwiser farm in 1961. Lawrence married Joan Campbell and they have four sons, Larry, Wally, Bruce and Kenneth and a daughter Shelly.

Hobart School

Hobart School on the N.E. 3-17-28-W4 was named for W.T. Hobart, on whose land the school was built. Dolena Brand was the first teacher. Other early teachers were Ralph Tripp, Mr. McMeaken, Fred Scragg and F.P. Whitman. Among the first pupils were Frank, Cora, Fern and Stella Barker, Fern Clever, Gladys and Clarence Reem, Ralph and Clifford Chaffee, Oswald McConkey, Clarence Utterburg and Harold and Hubert Kindt.

Walter Hobart

Walter Hobart homesteaded south east of Cayley in the early 1900's. He was a good farmer and a good neighbour. The Hobarts had no children. After Mrs. Hobart died Walter hoped to leave his farm and large house to be made into a

boy's school. It was not found suitable so he sold the farm to Trond Berger and left his estate to the Woods Christian Homes.

Mr. Hobart's Mother lived with them and died on the farm.

Walter's great pleasure was hockey games. He had the first combine in the district in 1926. Jack Wickens bought the machine the following year.

I. Keller

The Reem Family

It was George Reem's love of horses that made him give up the barber business in Barnsville, Minnesota and take up a homestead in Alberta.

In 1902 he filed on the N.E. quarter of 10-17-28-W4, a few miles southeast of Cayley, bringing the family up in April 1903 to become one of the first homestead families in the district.

The first home had only two rooms, but they were large. A few years later the present house was built and the first part moved against it. It still stands today, one of the few original homes left.

The children's first playhouse was a buffalo wallow. They saw no buffalo but there were lots of coyotes, badgers, gophers, weasels, and birds. There were Indians too - but friendly.

The tragic topic of conversation in 1903 was the big slide - for that was the year the mountain split and almost buried the town of Frank.

There was a natural spring that used to flow from a knoll in Steven's pasture, through the Reem homestead, to form what was called McConkey Lake. The water was soft, but as the years passed it dried up.

One of the "good things" of the early days was a letter from Pincher Creek with an offer to buy a full grown steer. A steer carrying the Reem brand had strayed to that area. Possibly it had got mixed in with a cattle drive. The offer was generous and a welcome surprise.

The family of six girls and two boys were all musically inclined. Mr. Reem played the guitar and mouth-organ, Mrs. Reem played the organ, and many happy evenings were spent playing and singing the old songs.

A sad blow to the music-loving family came one winter when Mr. Reem and Mr. Stevens went to the hills with horses and wagons to get corral poles and firewood. The firewood supply had been dangerously low when the men left, and a bad storm came up while they were gone and delayed their return. At home the firewood was soon gone. The situation was desperate but Mrs. Reem was equal to it, for she chopped up the organ to keep the home fires burning. The family comforted themselves with the thought that the old organ hadn't stood the trip from Minnesota too well anyway. The story had a happy ending for it wasn't long until they had another and better organ.

Winter was the best-liked season. Most of the children were driven to school in sleighs by their parents as there was no barn out there for some years. Sleighs and lumber wagons were the main means of travel, then the democrat, then the high-top, rubber-tired buggy, and finally the automobile.

In 1918 the Reems moved to Calgary to give the children a better opportunity to further their education, but they retained the farm.

Mrs. Reem passed away in 1954, Mr. Reem in 1961, at almost 91 years of age. Of the family, Gladys married Tom Brooks and had three children. She died in the flu epidemic of 1918. Clarence, not married, owns and farms the original homestead. Ruth, Mrs. George Stringer, who is a widow, lives near Seattle. Esther married Turner Harvey. They have one son, and live in Calgary. George Stout Reem was also a victim of the 1918 flu epidemic. Grace, Mrs. Adam Menzies, has one son and lives in Vancouver. Alice married George Danielson. They have one daughter and live in Salinas, California. Helen married Arthur Taylor. They had one son Douglas. Art died in 1957, and Douglas in 1959.

Esther Harvey

Mr. and Mrs. James Melvin

They came to Canada in August, 1918 and moved to the Legler Farm in April, 1919, farming and living there for twenty years.

Their neighbours were Mr. and Mrs. Gus Shaw and family, Mr. and Mrs. Hart Loree and family, Mr. and Mrs. Alec Greig and Bill and Mr. and Mrs. Hobart. They drove a horse and buggy and then purchased a ford coupe.

They had one daughter, Theo Lois. She went to Hobart school one year and then to Nanton consolidated school. She married Warren C. Cooper in 1927. They have one daughter, Elaine Pitt now living in Halifax. Son Warren Jr. is ranching west of Stavely. They have five great grandchildren.

Mrs. Melvin passed away in June, 1938. Mr. Melvin moved to Brooks in 1940 and to Kelowna in 1942 and passed away in 1963.

The farm is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Loree and family.

Lloyd and Donna Loree

Lloyd is a son of a well-known Nanton family, Mr. and Mrs. Hart Loree and was raised across the road from the farm he now owns (the former James Melvin farm), just east of Connemara. In 1951 he married Donna Denison, daughter of Ione and "Denny" Denison of Cayley.

They are both members of the Nanton United Church choir and Lloyd is becoming well-known for his Western Christmas cards and is called upon to do his caricatures at many local gatherings.

Their children are Denny, Murray, Grant and Brenda.

Holoboff Family

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Holoboff and family came from British Columbia in 1919. They worked for Charlie Gardner for several years and also for Clifford Chaffee. Later they rented the Phillips farm.

The children, Pete, Mike, Helen and Irene attended Braeside and Cayley schools. The family later purchased land in the Nanton district. Pete, Jr. who competed in rodeos, was killed by having a bronk fall on him in a practise ride.

Mr. and Mrs. Holoboff, who worked very hard to earn the success they achieved in farming, are now retired and live in Nanton.

Trond Berger Family

Trond Berger left Norway and arrived in Seattle, Washington around 1909. His intentions were to carry on the family traditions of seeking employment with the fish hatcheries. While waiting for the boat, he heard rumors of cheap land in Alberta. He first homesteaded in the Empress district and after being dried out he sought work in the Nanton and Parkland district, eventually renting land in this area.

He returned to Norway and brought back his bride to Alberta in 1926. He bought the Hobart farm and farmed it until 1939. They retired to High River where he passed away in 1962.

Their son Jake and his wife Verna (Devolin) took over the farm. Their children are Gwen, Peggy, Carol and Tommy.

Peell Coulee School

Peell Coulee School - 1931-32 (left to right) Back row: Tom Henry, Bill Christofferson, Bob LePatourel, Andy Christofferson, Dan LePatourel, Hansel Husby, Hilda Lavender, Hanna Christofferson, Izora Charlton. Middle row:- Ronald Henry, Roy Sutherland, Kenneth Henry, Ralph Charlton, Charlie Henry, Maddlyn Sutherland. Front row:- Bobby Matthews, Albert Sutherland, Earl Sutherland. Teacher: Annette M. Christofferson.

Ross and McPherson cattle, branded PL, had grazed the area of the new school district and wandered through the coulee many years before, and the PL brand was the inspiration for naming the Peell School. The Department of Education had ruled that the name must be spelled out.

The school was built by George Taylor of Calgary and was opened in 1919 with Miss Edna Wight as first teacher. It was her first year of teaching, and the first year of school for her four pupils - Carl and Annette Christofferson and Gordon and Illa Seney. Mrs. Armand Lian followed her sister as teacher and remained at Peell for several years. Among others who taught were Cecil McIlvride, John Houlden, Mr. McLeod, Miss Rita Bourke, Miss Wheeler, and Miss Enid May. Other families whose children attended the school were Al Henrys, Sutherlands, LePatourels, Dudleys and Andersons.

Arthur LePatourel, Jim Glendenning and Mr. LeGryce were members of the Board at various times.

Church services were held at the school for a number of years. Sunday School classes were supervised by Mrs. Al Henry and by Mrs. Andy McIlvridge.

When the big School Division was organized and Peell was no longer needed as a country school the building was sold and moved to Blackie. The district children were taken by van to school at Blackie.

Arthur LePatourel

Arthur LePatourel, a native of the Island of Guernsey, filed on his homestead east of town in 1903. Mr. LePatourel was an early experimenter in wheat growing. In 1905 he broadcast a gallon of Red Fyfe on a piece of well-worked fireguard. It grew well, the range cattle ignored it, and in spite of the damage done

by gophers, yielded a fine increase. He knew of no binder in the country at that time, so he harvested his wheat by pulling it up by the roots and tying it with string. He threshed it by beating the heads against his boot and stored the grain away in bags for next year's seed. Misfortune came early the next spring. He set the bags outside his shack one morning while he did a little extra-special house-cleaning. The cleaning only took a little while, but that's all the time a few of George Lane's range cattle needed to consume the richest feed of their lives!

One of Mr. LePatourel's homestead neighbors, whose name has been forgotten, broadcast about ten acres of wheat. He got a dandy crop and threshed it out by pounding it with a club. The result was several wagon-loads to haul out and sell. E.E. Thompson of High River later paid $2.50 per acre for breaking, and supplied fall wheat for seed in exchange for half the crop delivered to the nearest town.

Hay for the ranchers was another paying crop. The wild grass grew tall and thick, with heavy hay drawing three to four feet to the wagon wheels. The ranchers were a "clannish" lot, Mr. LePatourel remembers, and maintained a stiff distance between themselves and the sodbusters. But hay for winter feed was important to the stockmen and they were willing to pay $2.50 per ton for hay in the stack. And the resulting cash was mighty important to the homesteaders.

If the ranchers didn't welcome the farmers whole-heartedly, the railways did. The coming of the homesteaders made a terrific difference to the rail economy and put it for the first time on a paying basis. The tracks on the C and E were very poor, Mr. LePatourel remembers. When a train passed over the ties they would splash out water like a car going through a mud puddle.

There were all types and classes of people among the homesteaders, and of quite a distinctive type was one certain family who homesteaded near Arthur LePatourel. They had a large family and even less than the usual amount of worldly goods. It was quite understandable for they weren't too energetic, and both husband and wife insisted on smoking 60 cent a pound tobacco. The wife's father had made her a brass pipe which she smoked with much spitting. Mr. LePatourel tells of chatting in the lee of their cabin out of the wind, the wife smoking and spitting, and a line-up of little ones standing against the cabin behind her. A sudden howl was set up by one of the little fellows. "What's wrong with you?" his mother demanded. The wailing answer was "Spit in my eye!"

Mr. LePatourel helped build the first grain elevator in High River in 1906. At that time there was still no elevator in Cayley.

Mrs. LePatourel was a graduate nurse from Philadelphia. They had three sons and one daughter. Jim and his wife Edith live on the family farm. Dan and his wife, Gwen Hallett, farm north of High River and Bob farms at Cochrane. Daughter Edith is Mrs. Bert Hunziger and lives at Claresholm.

In 1960 Arthur LePatourel was the only Cayley sodbuster still residing on his old homestead. He passed away October 20, 1962, Mrs. LePatourel in March, 1945. They were highly respected in the district and wonderfully kind neighbours.

The Christofferson's

There were six brothers in the Christofferson family, Peter, Kristoffer, Thomas, Lars, Hans and Ander, and eventually they all emigrated to Canada from their native Moi Rana, Norway, Kristoffer, who arrived in 1927, farmed in the Frankburg area.

Annette Heseltine

Peter Christofferson

Peter, the oldest, emigrated to the United States, probably Minnesota, in 1900 or 1901 where some other people from his native Mo were then living. He heard of all the free homestead land in Canada and wrote his brothers in the old country about it. At the same time our Federal Government and the C.P.R. were conducting an aggressive advertising campaign in Europe for immigrants to fill up the Canadian Northwest.

Thomas and Lars arrived in Nanton, Alberta, in March of 1904. Peter also come from the United States and they filed for homesteads on three adjoining quarters:- Peter on the S.W.¼ of 2, Thomas on the N.E.¼ of 2, and Lars on the S.E.¼ of 2, all in 18-27-W.4th. Apparently Peter wanted the S.W.¼ of 2 for his homestead because of the large slough on it which would be handy for watering livestock, also for hunting ducks.

Peter built a homestead shack on his quarter - quite near the water - and also dug a well for drinking water, etc. The location of this well, although long ago filled in, can still be seen.

During the summers, he worked on his homestead and in the winters he went to British Columbia and worked in the lumber camps in order to get the cash needed to develop his homestead.

About 1917 Peter bought the S.½ of 11-18-27-W.4th and built a house and other buildings on it and here he lived until the late 1920's. Later he rented his farm and moved to Bragg Creek where he had a ranch. Here he raised Aberdeen-Angus cattle for many years. In the late 1930's he returned to his farm and spent his time between the farm and Bragg Creek until he sold the Bragg Creek property. In 1950 he rented his farm to his nephew, Karl Christofferson, and in 1951 he retired to Ladysmith on Vancouver Island, where he died in 1954. His farm passed on to Johanna Johansen, who had been his housekeeper for over 20 years, and in 1958 she sold the farm to Karl Christofferson.

Thomas and Lars Christofferson

When Thomas and Lars arrived in Nanton in March of 1904, Lars was suspected of coming down with smallpox and consequently the two of them were immediately quarantined in a little shack near Nanton. This was quite ironic because, even at this time, there was universal compulsory smallpox vaccination in Norway and they were likely the only ones in the area immune to smallpox.

Thomas and Lars built their homestead shack on the boundary between their two quarters, half on one side and half on the other so that while they lived under one roof, they each slept on their own homestead. Here they lived for six months out of each year in order to comply with the requirements of the Homestead Act.

During the summer they worked for neighbours, one of whom was Andy Lavender, returning each night to sleep on their homesteads. In return for wages they had the use of equipment with which to break the sod of their homesteads. One of their early setbacks was the loss of a team of horses which got into some grain and died of overeating. This team represented their wages for an entire season.

In the fall, they went to the lumber camps in British Columbia to cut ties for the C.P.R. Before long, Lars was working as a blacksmith, which paid better than cutting ties. As time went on, they acquired livestock so during the winters Thomas stayed on the homestead to look after their livestock while Lars went to British Columbia to work.

By 1909 they had proved up their homesteads and were living together on Lars' homestead where they had a two-room shack, other buildings and a dug well. A barn built in 1916 was later moved to the N.W.¼ of 2 and is still being used by Karl Christofferson.

In 1910 Thomas sent for Sarah Pedersen, his sweetheart in Norway. Her first home in Canada was the shack on Lar's quarter, to which Thomas had added a third room. It was in this house that their first two children, Karl and Annette, were born.

About 1914 Thomas bought the N.W.¼ of 2-18-27-W.4th on which a Mr. and Mrs. Van Camp were living. Thomas and his family moved into the four-roomed cottage on this quarter and here the third child, Hanna, was born. This cottage forms part of the dwelling now occupied by his son, Karl.

About the same time, Lars bought the N.W.¼ of 35-17-27-W.4th from a family by the name of Beagle, which is now owned by Mary Christofferson Bartholomew and farmed by Bill Christofferson.

Also, about this time, Thomas and Lars and Andy Lavender formed a partnership and bought a threshing outfit so that they could thresh their own crops and also do custom work. Lars, (or Louis as he was generally called) with his mechanical ability, was the one who kept the outfit in working order. After the death of Lars this partnership continued between the remaining two until the early 1920's. At no time did they have anything but a verbal agreement. Later, Thomas and Hans had a threshing outfit between the two of them.

Lars never married and he died in 1917 in a Calgary hospital following an operation for ulcers.

Thomas continued to farm until his death in 1930. During the last 12 or 14 years of his life he served as a councillor for the old M.D. of Riley. He was one of the original trustees of the old Peell Coulee School District and continued as trustee for some years and was one of the persons instrumental in the formation of this school district. During the 1920's he became a Mason.

His widow, Sarah, and his son, Karl, carried on the farming operations until she moved to High River in 1942, where she died in 1955.

Karl married Gwen Smith in 1945 and is living on the "Van Camp" quarter. He also owns the original three homestead quarters of his father and uncles.

Annette (Mrs. Colin F. Heseltine) is a widow living in High River.

Hanna (Mrs. O.T. Lewis) is a widow living in Edmonton where she is a guidance counsellor in one of the city schools.

Hans and Ander Christofferson

Hans and Ander came out to Alberta in the fall of 1909 and went to the B.C. lumber camps. There Ander died of typhoid fever in the winter of 1909-1910.

Hans continued to work in the lumber camps and elsewhere, including the Chris Frank threshing outfit in Frankburg in the fall of 1910, until he was able to buy the S.½ of 10-18-27-W. 4th about 1912 from a Michael Grant who had bought it from a Mr. Everett in 1907. Some people by the name of Wilcox were living on the land at the time he bought it.

About 1917 Hans bought the N.½ of 3-18-27-W. 4th, and Thomas the S.½ of 3. This was all sod at the time. At the present time, the N.½ of 3 is owned by Hans' daughter Mary, and the S.½ of 3 by Thomas' daughter, Hanna.

In 1916 Hans sent for his sweetheart in Norway, Pauline Andersen. She arrived in December of 1916 and started out her new life in the little three-roomed house on the S.½ of 10. Here the two oldest children, Ander and Lars, were born. A daughter, Mary, was born some years later.

Hans and Pauline retired to Horseshoe Bay in 1949 where Pauline died in 1956 and Hans in 1959.

Their son, Ander, worked with his father on the farm until 1941, when he married Mary Anne Moore and set up on his own in Frankburg where he is now living. He has two children, Sharon, (Mrs. Grant Cooke) and Mark at home. A son, Martin, died in infancy in 1950.

While Hans' second son was given the name of Lars, he was always known as "Bill". In 1948 he married Yvonne Head and he and his family are living on his father's home place on the S.W.¼ of 10. He has three children, Lesley, Wendy and Janice, all in school.

Mary is married to Roy Bartholomew and is living in Horseshoe Bay. She has one child, Eric.

Annette Heseltine

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew McIlvride

In 1906 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew McIlvride and their six sons and one daughter came from Ontario and settled on a farm on the Little Bow ten miles east of Cayley, now owned by the Henry Brothers. Mrs. McIlvride was a sister of Lauchlin McKinnon of Langdon.

Some of their closest neighbours were Emil Hocart, O'Kelley's, Hardings and Ruperts, most of whom were homesteaders and sold their farms as soon as they proved up on them.

There was no school at that time in the district so the children attended the Arthur school until 1919 when Peell Coulee school was built. Margaret, who is now Mrs. Gordon Howden, says their biggest problem was travelling muddy roads.

Mr. McIlvride suffered greatly from Asthma and when returning from a visit in Ontario passed away at Winnipeg on his way home. After this the boys farmed the land and later Andy took the farm over and lived there until ill health forced him to quit.

Of the seven children only three are still living. Margaret Howden of Blackie, Bob of Edmonton and Cecil of Nanton.

Eva Cummings

Cecil McIlvride

Of the five McIlvride brothers raised in the Little Bow, Bob, Bill, Andy, Charlie, Cecil and Art - Cecil was destined to become the teacher of the family.

Cecil attended Arthur and Sharon school before attending Normal. He taught at Peell for a short term when he was 18. After graduating came to Sharon in fall of 22 to teach. He taught at Round Mound in fall of 24. Then in 1926, he married Flosie Crellen of Nanton, and returned to teach at Sharon. Their first home was the teacherage with out a cellar until Cecil dug one. That Christmas he left Flosie in Nanton and rode on the train to Cayley, walked out to Sharon (12) miles through 6'' of snow and 30 below weather to be in time to teach next morning.

His salary before market crash was $1200 dollars a year and after market crash was lucky to get $30 a month.

Discouraged he became a grain buyer for National Elevator in Brant, (Don Shultz followed him) Spring of '40 started farming for himself in Frankburg, raising two girls Dorothy and Marjorie.

Harriet Pence

Alfred Poile

Alf Poile was a ''week-end'' farmer on the Little Bow in the Peell Coulee district, working elsewhere during the week. His son Glad ran the farm, which was later purchased by Floyd Derrick.

In the Valley of the Little Bow

by Lillian Sutherland, High River, Alta., 1955

'Tis morning in the valley
The mists have crept away
And left the verdant pastures
All wet at break of day.

The lowing cattle ranging
Along the hillsides sheltered brow
Come down in scattered numbers
Thru the valley's luxuriant draw.

The grass is tall and tender
The water ripples by
The sun is chasing shadows
As it floods the eastern sky.

There's a peace within the valley
Till I hear the coyote call
Then, with thundering warning
Dogs bark - life shudders, there's a brawl.

There's trickery, we watch it
The coyotes close, then flee,
To lead a dog in each direction
It is a plan as sure as it can be.

The coyotes turn to fluster
The dogs when drawn apart

The attack is on in ernest
"Tea kettle over apple cart."

But now a bullet zings
To stop the tumult there
Surprise, retreat and terror
Are the Coyotes' only fare.

But the valley's peace is scuttled,
By this discordant note,
So with blaze of day upon us
We take our humble yolk.

Starr and Denver Charlton

Starr and Denver Charlton came from Oregon in 1909 and bought their farm from O'Kelley's which had been C.P.R. land, ten miles northeast of Cayley which is now owned by the Mormons.

For a short time Denver lived where Tony Stadlwiser now lives but following the death of his wife in 1910 he moved back to Oregon.

Starr's two daughters, Roma and Alberta are living in Oregon. In 1918 Otto who came to the district and in 1913 took over the farm and Mr. and Mrs. Charlton moved back to the United States.

Otto Charlton

Otto came to the district in 1913 and worked until taking over his brother Starr's farm in 1918. That year Otto married Nellie Hobbs who was a native of England and had lived in the district for several years.

In those days the farmers had to provide their own entertainment so every two weeks they held a dance either at the Arthur or Peell Coulee School and every Christmas everyone was loaded into the sleigh to attend the school concert which was one of the highlights of the year.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlton have two daughters and two sons. Izora, Mrs. Allister Watson, lives in the Peace River district as does Ralph. Marie, Mrs. Ken Stephenson, lives at Champion and Dale is in High River. After selling their farm Mr. and Mrs. Charlton retired to High River.

Eva Cummings

S.M. Dudley

Stephen Markham Dudley was born in Spanish Fork, Utah in 1878 and came to the High River district in 1912. He bought two sections of land and built a house which burned down in 1930. At one time he had thirty five hundred pigs. He also had three sections of land, one each at Blackie, Vulcan and Ensign and had an interest in the Dudley Grain Co. elevators at Brant, Nanton and Spring Coulee. He also sold C.P.R. land and hail insurance.

The farm is now farmed by his son, Wilbur Dudley.

Elizabeth Dudley

Mr. and Mrs. Kanute Jorstad

The Jorstads came from North Dakota to Claresholm in 1907 and homesteaded east of Carmangay before moving to Cayley to rent Section 25 from C. Marshall from 1937 to 1945. They then bought land near High River and have retired there.

The two sons, Oscar and Elmer, continued to farm Marshall land. Elmer moved to High River in 1961. Oscar and Sophia have two children, Gloria (Mrs. Ron Dielson) of Calgary and Leona who attends Brant school, and one grandchild.

Neighbour Bob Montgomery farms Section thirteen, former farm of J.D. Smidt and homestead of Simons.

Arthur School

The Arthur School was built in 1905 by Arthur Foster from whom it derived its name. Among the first pupils were the Foster and Charlie Koch families, and W. Barker.

Arthur School

Miss L. Lucas taught there for some years, as did Mrs. L. Jenson. Miss Blanche Manlay (Mrs. John A. May) still resides in the district their daughter taught at Peell.

In 1929 a new school was built and the old one was sold to John Camp. The new school was closed when the pupils were transported to Cayley by van and the building later sold as a dwelling to Mrs. Kenney of Nanton.

Swann

"Duke" Swann came to this district in the early years from the Pelouse country in Washington. He bought Section 19-17-27-W4. Duke was quite a horseman - one of the long-line-skinners. They had a big Mastiff dog which they would put in a tread-mill and do their churning by dog-power. The Swann's had two boys and a girl. They moved away in 1917, selling their land to John Taylor.

Cecil Mitten

Cecil Mitten came from Ridgetown, Ontario and with his father homesteaded east of Cayley. After holding this land for a short time he sold out to Jack Lucas, this is now being farmed by Jim Robinson. Mr. Mitten then bought a farm in the Blackie district. They retired to High River where Mr. Mitten passed away in November, 1965. Cecil Mitten was on the Board of the High River General Hospital for many years. Mrs. Mitten still resides in High River.

Mr. Galladay

Mr. Byrd Galladay came from Terryhote Indiana U.S.A. He homesteaded N.W. ¼ 20-17-27-West 4 Meridian. He and his son Willard came together and Willard homesteaded S.W.¼-17-27-W.4M. After meeting the requirements of the government they sold and left for Montana. Willard sold his homestead to J.W. Lucas.

Edward Koch Family

My father, Edward Henry Koch and my mother Rosalia (Mueller) came from Bellingham, Washington to homestead Section 6-17-27-W4. They moved here by wagon on September 9th, 1903. The homestead shack was 14x14 which was only partly finished. The first night it rained and kept raining for three days so Dad and I finished shingling the shack in the rain so Mother could cook out of the rain. Maybe you could class this as a hardship but none of us got a cold or even a sniffle. Really the only hardship we had was trying to farm and to live without any money. When I think back I don't see how the folks managed. Money was the big problem. As for pastimes, we played cards in the different homes, dances and in the summer baseball and lacrosse. When winter rolled around we played hockey on Mosquito Creek. The first game I recall was Nanton versus the Dunbow Indians - the Indians won!

I guess the biggest reason Dad came to Alberta was because he was a farmer first, last and always. In Bellingham he was working for wages and as the unions were getting started he couldn't work when he wanted to. He had heard of the lush grass growing in Alberta and if grass could grow, why not grain too?

His first neighbours were R.Y. Cowan and A. Marshall. The first Arthur School Board consisted of Foster, Hasting and Dad. Mr. Foster was chairman.

Dad's children were: Rosalia, Mary, Ed, Amelia, Herman, Jacob and me (Charles). Herman died in Mo. and Rosalia and Mary were married so never came to Alberta to live. There was nothing special about the family - just an ordinary family ready to help anyone in need.

Members of the Charles Koch family are Mr. and Mrs. Albert Koch of Nanton, Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Melvin (Pearl) of Victoria, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Koch, Creston, B.C., Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Phillips (Dorothy) Nakusp, B.C., Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Koch, Nanton, Mr. and Mrs. Don Ransom (Bernice) Cayley, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Burndred (Beryl) Calgary, and Mr. and Mrs. Percy McGregor (Sylvia) at Boswell.

Living in this district are Don and Bernice Ransom who have a family of three. Debbie and Glen are attending school at Cayley and Kelly will soon start school.

Charles Koch

John W. Lucas

One of Alberta's first grower of registered seed grain, John W. Lucas, homesteaded the N.E.¼ 20-17-27-W4th east of Cayley. John came from Stratford Ontario, and filed on his quarter in 1903. He worked for the Lineham Lumber Company Sawmill in High River that year, along with a number of Cayley homesteaders. Among the men from Cayley were John Marth, Charles Gardner and John and Lon Stevens.

Capt. John W. Lucas.

Beside his interest in seed grain, John raised a very big vegetable garden, and was also a pioneer in the growing of shelter-belts. He tells of the spring that his homesteader neighoor, Byrd Galloday, saw him planting potatoes under the wrong sign of the Zodiac.

"He told me I would not have a crop of potatoes because he said I planted them under the sign of the flower girl according to his almanac. He said the potatoes would be nothing but flowers. And it did seem to turn out to be true for the vines were loaded with

blossoms, but the final result was that at digging time I never had such a crop of potatoes. I could pile them up on my arm like cord-wood. Many of the potatoes weighed two and three pounds each."

John Lucas' greatest interest was the development of new varieties of seed grain. He imported seed from Sweden, Italy, and other countries of Europe, and from other parts of the world, which he cross-bred and developed into strains suitable for cultivation in western Canada.

Existing regulations prevented him from registering and marketing the new seed under his own name. Some of the varieties which he developed reached the public through the government experimental stations, but he received little or no credit for his work in developing the strains.

In 1910 he began exhibiting seed and won prizes in Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge and Brooks. He was encouraged to enter larger competitions, and in 1916 he exhibited at the International Dry Farming Congress Exhibition held at El Paso, Texas in open competition with the world. He won prizes for every entry and brought home the Sweepstakes for oats as well as diplomas and cups for other entries. Similar honors followed in Peoria, Illinois, and in Kansas City.

Every year from 1919 to 1924 he exhibited at the Chicago Grain and Hay Show and won sweepstakes for oats, rye, barley, peas, white wheat, hard spring wheat and small seeds. He also won prizes at the Winnipeg Exposition, and contributed to the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, England. When he retired from farming in 1924 he had more than 300 prizes, cups, medals, and diplomas to his credit, and was known as the "Oat King". Some varieties which he scored on were Abundance Oats, Manchuria Six Rowed Barley, and Early Ohio potatoes.

He was on the first Seed Board organized in Alberta, and was on the Board of Directors of the first seed cleaning plant built at Edmonton.

After his retirement he attended the American Bible College at Chicago where he attained a degree in theology. On his 80th birthday he was given the degree of Doctor of Divinity by Burton College, Manitou Springs, Colorado. He is at present pastor of Immanuel Church, 43 Fourth Street N.E., in Calgary.

William Lucas

William Lucas came from Stratford, Ontario in 1905 to visit his son John. He was taken up with the country and decided to file on a homestead even though he was in his later sixties. He filed on the S.E.¼ of Section 20-17-27-West of the 4th Meridian, which joined his son's homestead, returned to Stratford and brought back a carload of settler's effects, including some purebred Shorthorn cattle. He then bought a carload of lumber and built a house. About two years later he had Edward Brewster build a barn.

Mrs. Lucas and daughters Isobel and Laura joined Mr. Lucas in the west. Father and son co-operated with the farming. Mr. Lucas Sr. took care of the stock and John did the field work for both.

Mrs. Lucas died in the spring of 1922. Two years later Mr. Lucas had a sale and moved to Calgary. He died in Gleichen in his 92nd year. His body was taken back to Stratford, Ontario for burial.

Felix Moran Family

Felix Moran and his wife, formerly Eliza Jane Mosgrove, and baby daughter Liola came to the Cayley district in 1905 from Athena, Oregon. Mr. Moran bought the northwest quarter of 17-17-27, where he built a three room frame house. They gradually accumulated three sections of land in that district. While living there six more children were born, Margaret, Mary, James, Bill, Albert and Blanche.

By the time the elder children were ready for school, the Arthur school was built - the first teacher was Miss Lucas, sister of Jack Lucas, the closest neighbor to the north. Miss Blanche Manley, later Mrs. John May, was one of the early teachers also. Other close neighbors were Mr. Tom Vance, Mr. Tom Kinney, Mr. Richard Delahunty and the Koch family. Our family doctor at that time was Dr. Schamburger, who farmed across the Little Bow river to the east. We were connected to the doctor and Mr. Delahunty by barbed wire telephone.

In 1917 the Moran family bought a home in Nanton and moved there to be close to a larger school. Mr. Moran continued to farm until his death in 1934. Mrs. Moran, with the help of her sons, continued to farm until she passed away in 1946.

The Morans were always interested in and raised driving and racing horses. The first horse they raced was one "Barney" which they took from a team they had driven to one of the first 24th of May Sports Days held in Cayley and he won the race. The Moran horses took part in most of the race meets held in southern Alberta and won many prizes. On a bet with Mr. Moran "Barney" was outrun by Charlie Phillips for a distance of 100 yards. The bet was that the horse and Charlie would run a straight 50 yards, turn round a post, and run back 50 yards. Charlie beat the horse by getting around the post faster!

Early day recreation was chiefly dances and socials held in the local school.

Liola Moran is now Mrs. Carl Hansen of Stavely, Margaret is Mrs. Alvin Geddes, Calgary, Mary is Mrs. Maurice McIntyre of Calgary, James of Nanton, Bill in Calgary. Albert passed away in 1961. Blanche is Mrs. Mac Legg of Banff.

Jim Moron

Mr. and Mrs. William Patrick Kinney

Both Mr. and Mrs. Kinney were born in Illinois. Will came to the Cayley district in 1904 with Richard Delahunty who had been his school master in Illinois. Mr. Delahunty had homesteaded earlier than this. Will Kinney homesteaded the NW ¼-16-17-27 W4. His neighbours were R. Delahunty on SE ¼-16-17-27 W4, Ed Koch now of Calgary on SW ¼-16-17-27 W4, and a Mr. Phillips on NE ¼-16-17-27 W4. Mr. Phillips died and is buried on this quarter. Mr. Delahunty also owned section 15 to the east. Mr. Stone owned the section to the south.

In 1911 Will Kinney returned to Illinois and married Anna Theresa Dunn. Their home was a 2 room house at first and later they built two more rooms on. The old house is still standing there. Will and Anna had four children.

Bernard married Jean Walters of Bassano. They had two children. Their son died in 1949 of polio. Their daughter Diane is Mrs. Clifford Slade, Nanton. Bernard still farms including the homestead quarter and lives in Nanton.

Celia married Rod MacKillop of Nova Scotia. They have ten children and farm in the High River district.

John married May Glen of Toronto. They have six children and reside in Toronto, Ontario. John is National Secretary for Kinsmen of Canada. Frank married June Ward of Calgary. They have five children and live at Abbotsford, B.C.

The Arthur school was built before Bernard was school age, but by this time he was the only school age child in the district so he went to the Lacombe Home at Midnapore for four years and Celia for two years. The school was then reopened.

Their mode of transportation was horse and buggy until 1918 when they bought their first new car.

Their entertainment was house parties, box socials, spelling matches and dances. These were held in the homes and later in the Arthur school. Will Kinney had plenty of Irish wit and entertained at parties with songs and Irish jigs.

Jean Kinney

Boyd Wallace Family

In 1916 Mr. Boyd Wallace and Miss Mary Waddell were married in the home of Mary's uncle, George Blake.

They made their home on the groom's homestead at Billings, Montana. In 1920 they returned to Alberta with daughter Harriet to rent in partnership with Noah Hair Section one, and half of Section two from the Moran estate. North half of Section ten was sublet to E. Chester; all in Township 17 Range 27.

After three years of hail, army worms and bad luck Mr. and Mrs. Wallace returned to Montana with a Canadian daughter, Jean. They had the courage to return to Alberta in 1929 and buy E½-2-17-1-W5 with another American, a son Robert, and with true homestead spirit built a small house, broke up the land, weathered the depression of the thirties with another Canadian, and raised another son, John.

Mr. and Mrs. Wallace retired to Nanton and celebrated their 50th Anniversary December 27, 1966.

John and his wife Lois and two children, Lorna and Bradley live on the home farm. Robert and family and Jean (Mrs. John Greig) live west of Nanton. Harriet married Don Pence and live east of Cayley on the old Hawkeye Ranch, now owned by Karl Christotterson. Their daughter, Laura Lee attends Cayley school. Roy is in Winnipeg and Wally married Carol McIntosh of High River. They have two children, Cindy and Karma

Harriet Pence

John L. Camp

John L. Camp was born in Whiting, Georgia and moved with his wife and family to Davenport, Washington. His family consisted of Cecil, Alice, Blanche, Edith, John, Aleta, Georgia and Denton.

They came to Alberta and in 1917 they bought land from Mr. R. Delahunty. Mr. Camp farmed the south east quarter section until 1943, when his brother Denton returned from High Prairie to farm the same property, where he still resides today.

Denton and Mable have a family of four daughters. Georgia married Reg. Barrows - now Mrs. Eugene Smith of Arizona. Hazel married James Sutherland, Dorothy married Willard Kjinserdahl and Helen married Jim Robinson. Helen and Jim's family are Betty, Fay and Danny. They are still members of the Cayley school.

Mr. and Mrs. Lon Ketcham

Lon and Hazel Ketcham were married in California in 1914, and the following spring moved up to Alberta. They had purchased a section of land 21-17-27-W4 in the Arthur district east of Cayley from Mrs. Ketcham's brother, Frank Kirk. Mr. Kirk had bought the section of CPR land in 1906 for $6.00 per acre, but had never lived on it. When Mr. and Mrs. Ketcham took it over it was fenced but otherwise unimproved.

The first job was drilling a well. Then the house and barns were built and enough land broken for a patch of oats. The first house served until 1947 when the present home was moved in from Turner Valley.

Mr. Ketcham passed away on August 3, 1964. Mrs. Ketcham resides in Nanton.

Mrs. J. LePatourel

The I. Robinson Family

In the spring of 1941 Mrs. I. Robinson and her family of three sons and one daughter, Harold, Elbert, James and Marjorie, of Chinook, Alberta moved to the J.W. Lucas farm in the Cayley district. The previous tenants on the farm had been Mr. and Mrs. Reid Gordon.

The farm was hailed out the first year the Robinsons were there, and the next year, 1942, was the wet year when it was impossible to complete harvesting. In 1943, between the left-over crop and the current crop, they threshed almost every month of the year.

Mrs. Robinson still resides on the farm which is operated by her son Jim and family. Mrs. Jim Robinson is the former Helen Camp and they have three children, Betty, Fay and Danny.

Russell Lyon Family

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Lyon purchased their farm east of Cayley from Andy McIlvride in 1947. Andy had purchased it from Mrs. James Henderson a few years earlier. Mr. Lyon passed away 1956. Mrs. Lyon, the former Marjorie Robinson, and her family still reside in the same house which was built by Mr. Vance some sixty years ago.

They had two sons. Dwight still attending school in Cayley, and Lorne is working in Calgary.

Richard Delahunty

Mr. Delahunty came from Illinois where he studied to be a priest. He was also a school teacher and had been Will Kinney's school-master. He homesteaded prior to 1904 and also bought land on the Little Bow near Stavely which he sold for big money and bought SE 16-17-27-W4 near Cayley.

He said he was a very lucky man as all his investments turned out so well. One year a Lethbridge Mill came to his farm and bought all his wheat for $2.40 per bushel - a premium over the ordinary price. Things changed during the "hungry thirties" and he suffered severe losses. These he tried to recover by playing the grain market but gradually lost more and more.

He was a kindly man and very generous in helping others. He enjoyed having young men around him and over the years had several "protegees".

In 1941 and 42 he rented his farm to Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Bertoia and lived with them. In 1943 he sold his farm to Donato dePaoli and went to Nanton to live in a house he had won in a raffle.

He spent his last days in the Father Lacombe Home at Midnapore.

The May Family

Richard May with Mrs. May (maiden name Matilda Malcolm) with one son John A. came to the Nanton district in March, 1910 from Collingwood, Ont. They decided to move west after their only daughter Agnes married and was living in the west. They came to the Nanton district to look around through the influence of a life-long friend F.T. Hallett.

They decided on the farm of R.Y. Cowan, who was selling out. It had been his homestead and their daughter Evie had taught in the Arthur school. Mr. May was a trustee of the Arthur district and later John A. was Sec'y-treas. until it was taken into the larger district. Mr. May was councillor in the old Riley municipal district for many years.

Front row:- John A. May, Mr. and Mrs. Richard May, standing behind Mr. May - Blanche Manley.

They attended the Nanton Presbyterian church, later the United church. Mr. May was an elder and Mrs. May taught a young people's bible class for many years.

John A. married Blanche Manley of Saskatoon who had been teaching in the Arthur school. They had three children. Frances, (Mrs. C.R. Mann, Dartmouth, N. S.) Enid, (Mrs. R.D. Allan, Calgary) and Richard F. John May took over the farm at his father's death and Richard F. took over at his father's (John's) death, and is still farming there.

Their nearest neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Koch with sons Ed and Charlie. Also Wm. Allan and Dave Allan and families. All of these were on homestead land.

Kjinserdahl Family

Erik Kjinserdahl came from Norway to Minnesota at the age of 18. He later moved to North Dakota and then to Lethbridge where he worked in the coal mines. In 1908 he took out a homestead in the Travers district.

He married Alpheda Roy of Bow City and they had five children; Bernice (deceased), Almer, Williard, Myrtle and Joyce. There are eleven grandchildren.

Erik had a large threshing outfit in the district in the early days and also worked on the Bow City bridge when it was being built. He moved to Nanton in 1924 and bought a farm east of Cayley.

He passed away in 1942. Alpheda is now married to E.H. Koch and lives in Calgary.

Williard and his wife (Dorothy Camp) and their four children, Ronnie, Donnie, Doreen and Sharon live in the Cayley district.

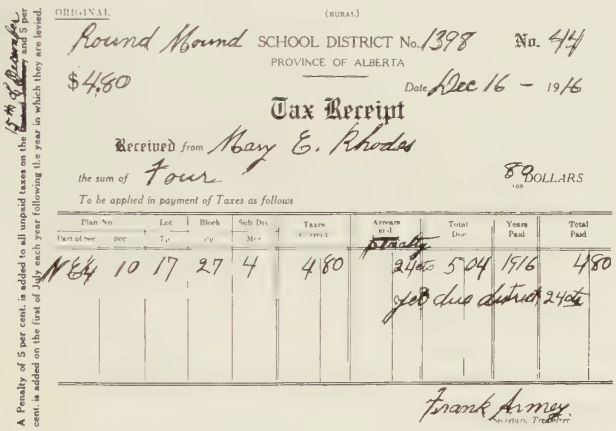
Ralph Lyon and Family

Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Lyon and family Arthur, Gordon, Russell, Ralph and Thelma moved to the Nanton district in the fall of 1924 from Winnifred Alberta.

Mr. Lyon and his sons farmed in the district until the spring of 1948, at which time he and his wife purchased a home in Nanton. Mr. Lyon passed away Dec. 24th of that year and son Ralph who returned from overseas, took over the family farm with his wife (Ruth Elliott) and have resided here ever since. They have two daughters - Judith, who graduated from the Cayley school in 1965 and Cheryl, who is still attending school there.

Russell Lyon (deceased 1956)

Round Mound School



ORIGINAL (RURAL)

Round Mound SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 1398 No. 44

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

$4.80 Date Dec 16 – 1916

Tax Receipt

Received from Mary E. Rhodes

the sum of Four 80/100 DOLLARS

To be applied in payment of Taxes as follows

Plan No.	Lot	Block	Sub Div	Taxes	Arrears and Penalty	Total Due	Years Paid	Total Paid
NE¼ 10	17	27	4	4.80	24 to 5.04	1916	4.80	
					Jan 8 due district 24 to			

Frank Armey Secretary-Treasurer

A Penalty of 5 per cent. is added to all unpaid taxes on the [illegible] and 5 per cent. is added on the first of July each year following the year in which they are levied.

Round Mound School was built in 1905 by Mr. Boon, a carpenter who lived farther south. The school was named after the mounds of rocky gravelly knolls numerous around that area. The teachers were Miss Sturdevon, Miss Dennis, Mr. DeVoal, Miss Tuttle, Wyssis Diefenbaker (uncle of John Diefenbaker, also had homestead north of Reid Hill). The children who attended in those first years were Clyde, Mildred, and Kenneth Sharpe, Eva, Ralph, Howard and Frank Salter, Walter and Hazel Reed, Harry, Ed, Frank and Florence Norstrum, Talmage, Wilmer, Mark, Ashley and Joe DeWitt (Ruth was born here but didn't start school), Les Boomer, Carl, John and Howard Steen, Eunice Robinson, Pearl and Elmer Tigner, Jessie, Frances and Paul Tehman, Grace and Lizzie Muir, Hugh, Russel, Almer, Harold, Alice, Dora and Muriel McGillvary, Charlie and Cleo Whistler, Herman and brother Steiner, later George Smith family attended this school. Then it was closed in the thirties and bought then moved to Nanton by Archie Clark.

Sharon School - 1937 (left to right) Back row:- Stanley Fletcher, Frances Spankie, Irene Spankie, Sadie MacDonald, Clarence Rhodes. Middle row:- R.D. MacDonald, John Allen Rhodes, Charles Rhodes. Front row:- Shirley Fletcher, Jack Rhodes, Mary Spankie. Teacher:- Mary Anne Moore.

Round Mound School - 1930 (left to right) Back row:- J.D. Smith, Eileen Smith, Miss Jessie Esplen (teacher), Eileen Read, Jack Eaton, Mona Eaton. Front row:- Doris Smith, Anna Eaton, Dale McMasters, Harvey Read.

Edward Spencer Boomer

Edward Spencer Boomer was married to Metta Jane Cross and arrived in High River from Coon Rapid Iowa, U.S.A. in 1903 by train. They came to Nanton where they took up a homestead 7 miles east and 3 miles north, at that time their home was known as the half way house for the Eastern farmers as far as Vulcan, before Vulcan was a town. Many people stopped at their home for lodgings and to water and feed their horses.

Mr. & Mrs. E.S. Boomer and son Les (in uniform) 1918.

Mr. Boomer was a Trustee of the Round Mound School and Mrs. Metta Boomer was a member of the Mission Circle and belonged to the F.W.A. and was a member of the United Church. They were both active in the community and enjoyed hunting, fishing and camping. Their close neighbors were Walter Read and Alex Muir. They had one son Les, who farmed on the original homestead until his death, his widow Mrs. Dora Bommer is still living on the home place, and also his daughter Mrs. Irene Tofsrud.

Mr. Boomer Sr. died in 1925 and Mrs. Boomer in 1938.

McGillivary

Dougal Hugh McGillivary was married to Lottie Charallot Cowen and came to Alberta from California by train in 1905.

They settled on a homestead 6 miles east and 3½ miles north of Nanton. Mr. McGillivary was a carpenter by trade and was able to build his own 3 story house on the farm, he also built the Nanton Hotel (now burned down).

Their neighbors were the Pallards and Navins.

The family consisted of: Hugh - deceased. Almer, Balfour, B.C. - Harold died 1917 - Russel died in 1932 - Gordon of Calgary. Alice Biller of Stanwood Wash., - Dora Boomer of Nanton. - and Muriel Mathers of Calgary.

Mrs. McGillivary died in 1927 and Mr. McGillivary in 1932.

German Baptist Brethren

Among the first to settle on the Little Bow were the German Baptist Bretheren, known as "Dunkards", including the Tigners, Salters, Dr. Shamberger, Ruperts, Rhodes, DeWitts and Simons.

The religion originated in Germany about the eighteenth century, and was distinguished by baptism with three immersions. Candidates were dipped at the utterance of each title of the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Ghost. To escape persecution large companies of them emigrated to this country. Like the Mennonites and Hutterites they were opposed to war. They were simple, plain-living devout Christians and good neighbors. Baptisms in this country were carried out in the Little Bow River.

The Baptist Brethren Cemetery is across the road from Sharon School which was originally the Dunkard Church. There are twenty-six graves in the Cemetery from the families of Vian, Tigner, Williams, Shaddow and Isham. The cemetery is on the present Steve Dixon property.

Dr. Shamberger was the central figure of the settlement, being doctor, preacher, teacher and homesteader.

Most of the Dunkard families later moved to the Arrowwood district.

Harriet Pence

Dr. G.W. Shamberger - Doctor, Teacher, preacher for Sharon and Roundmound District - homesteader too. This later became home of Sadie & Johnny Rhodes.

Members of the Dunkard church, Lehmans, Salters, Tigners, Dewitts, Simons having a picnic. Sharon, the school with the biblical name, was originally Dunkard church.

Albert Guy Salter

Albert Guy Salter arrived in the Round Mound district in 1905 from North Dakota. With him he brought his wife Hattie, daughter Eva and three sons, Ralph, Howard and Frank, also a niece and nephew, Ross and Myrtle Cottrell, whose parents were killed in a cyclone in North Dakota.

They bought a farm not far from the school so Hattie boarded a great many of the teachers and the boys helped with the janitor work.

They sold their farm in 1917 and moved to the Arrowwood district. Hattie was a part-time midwife and brought many babies into the world. All the Salter family are now deceased.

Donald McDonald

Mr. & Mrs. Donald McDonald came to the district in 1909 (Mar. 9) from Athena, Oregon and bought out a Mr. Hollenberg. The home was built by Mr. Hollenberg in 1904. It was a two story 8 room house. The neighbors were Dr. Shamburger, Mr. Bingham, Mr. Millstron, Mr. Ladd, Mr. McIntyre and Mr. Dad & Frank Fletcher and their families. Mr. McDonald was a trustee of the Sharon school district #1065 for over twenty five years. His family consisted of a daughter and a son. The son Donald A. was married to Mary McFadden in 1925 and they have two daughters, Saddie and Jean, and a son R.D.

Crops were poor in 1909 & 1910 and in order to pay the interest on the farm Mr. McDonald gave Mr. Hollenberg a team of horses. Also there wasn't much money so they milked a lot of cows and made butter to trade for groceries, etc.

Mary McDonald's half brother, Joe McFadden, is at present grain buyer in Cayley. Mary, age 14, came out from Ontario as a companion with Gramma Wickens on a Harvest Excursion in 1917. Mary's father, John McFadden, worked for John McConkey while putting in time on his homestead east of Ensign. Mary came west to keep house for her father, even helping him to break the sod. Her mother never left Ireland.

The John L. Smith Family

John L. Smith married Jessie Birkett. Both were born in Scotland and moved to Virden, Manitoba in 1906 and farmed there until they moved to Nanton in the spring of 1910. There he managed the 25 Ranch until 1918, when he started farming for himself on Sec. 3-17-28. His nephew Jack L. Smith and his wife (Hazel Hayden) now farm this place.

I, (son George), came to the Round Mound School district in the spring of 1919 from west of Nanton to farm with my older brother Jim and my Dad who had rented Sec. 14-17-27 and W½ Sec. 12-17-27 from N.I. Hunt of Colfax, Washington. We rented it for two years and then I took it over myself until 1947 when I turned it over to my son-in-law, Bob de Roaldes and stepson, Walter Ward. Then I bought a half section at Cayley (now owned by Kaare Greftegreff) and lived there until I moved to Calgary in 1952.

Original home.

Top L.–R.: Maude, George, Doris, Elmo Jones, Grampa John Smith. Bottom L.–R.: Jack, George Jr., Marjorie, Nina, & Gramma Jessie Smith.

Our nearest neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. Mat Didier, Mr. and Mrs. H. McMasters, Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Wallace, and Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Shaw.

Living in the district were my brothers Stewart, Jim and Dave, all now deceased.

My family are all married. Nina married Elmo Jones, Jack married Kitty Anderson, Eileen married Elmer Levins, Doris is Mrs. Doug Duthie, George married Arlene Olson and Marjorie married Bob de Roaldes.

Marjorie and her husband Bob live in the Cayley district and have a family of five girls. Sharon is attending school at Olds, Judy, Shirley and Elaine attend school at Cayley and Kathy will start school in 1967.

George Smith

Jack Hayden

When Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hayden arrived in Nanton in 1908 there was not a suitable place to live on their farm (where Cecil Hess farms to-day), so they rented George Kuich's homestead. George only had forty days more to prove up and wished to leave and work in Calgary as a carpenter. This homestead was NW4-17-27-W4.

The loneliness was unbearable for Mrs. Hayden. Only the birth of their son Homer in June and the medical aid Dr. Shamburger and his mother-in-law gave her saved her reasoning.

Jack says it rained for seventeen days - there was no tin around the stovepipe and they had to catch the rain in a boiler on the stove. And where it took only two horses to break sod in Kansas it took six in Alberta. The sod here had more roots, rocks and gravel. Then the odd hail storm would panic the horses and they would run for shelter. There was one compensation - one always had home made ice cream after a hail storm.

Jacks family: Homer married Meriel Burke, Hazel is Mrs. Jack Smith, Gladys is Mrs. Bob Olten and Shirley married Phil Morin and lives at the coast.

Other homesteaders in that area were W. Reickel and M. and J. Nevin.

After the farm had passed through several hands Jack Burrows bought three quarters of the section and sold these to Johnie Green in 1966.

Tigners

Thomas Tigner was born at W. Middleton, Penn. in 1838. On August 18th, 1864 he married Hannah E. Stevenson in Illinois. Born to them were four daughters and seven sons: Hannah, Yertica, Cenntenial, Alice, Thomas, Oscar, William, Albert, Richard, Benjamin and George.

Thomas Sr. served three years in the Civil War. Son Richard, better known as Dick, was born in Kansas and in 1895 he married Dora Maud Garlinghouse of Topeka, Kansas. Born to Maud and Dick in Kansas were Clarence, Bertha and

John, then moved to North Dakota where Vernon and Amy were born. There they lived in a sod house which was said to be quite warm.

They heard of opportunities in Canada so in the spring of 1903, Richard and brothers Oscar and Bill came to Alberta. Bill filed on NW 12-17-27-W4 and Oscar on SW quarter. Dick later filed on a homestead in Township 19-range 27. Here Dick and his wife had five more children: Arthur, Alfred, Ralph, Russel and Eleanor.

Bill had one daughter, Pearl, and two sons, Almer and Ernest. He used to preach in the Dunkard Church in the Sharon district, and drove homesteaders out to locate their land.

Oscar had two girls, Edith and Ethel and one son, Roy. Ethel married Dr. Shamburger's son Warren and Edith married Mel Isham. When Bill and Oscar and their families left the district they went to Washington.

Dick's granddaughter Barbara married Stewart Noble of Okotoks and their three children are Ken, Wendy and Vern.

Dick's daughter Bertha's memory of driving to school in winter is that "it would be noon by the time we felt warm enough to do any studying. In fact it would take that long for the school to get warm. I recall one cold morning after a blizzard we got bundled into the sleigh and just out of our gate the sleigh slipped into the ditch and threw us all out. The horses and sleigh went the four miles to school without us".

Mother sewed for all the family, made bread and churned butter in a big wooden churn and packed some in crocks for times when the cows were low in milk. Dad operated a big steam engine threshing outfit. The crew was 20-22 men, so there was a cook car and a bunk car that travelled from farm to farm with the outfit.

There were no fences in the early days. We would travel across country to High River which was a days journey by sleigh or buggy. If Dad wasn't home by dark, Mother would hang a lantern on the corner of the house in case he got off the trail.

The Indians made our farm an overnight stopping place between the Reserve at Gleichan and High River. They also expected Mother to give them food, so she would make a huge pan of rice pudding, along with bread and milk which pleased them. As soon as they started to pitch their tents she would start the pudding. There would be as many as 20 or 30 travelling by wagon.

The variety of food was limited, meat was mainly home cured pork, chicken, and rabbits. In late fall a beef would be butchered and put in bags to freeze and be stored for winter use. Mostly dried fruits were used, mostly Saskatoons. Dad was a keen fisherman and this also helped. His favorite spot was Lake McGregor.

There was lots of visiting done in those days, also parties for sing songs and skating. Heated rocks were used in sleighs or buggies to keep our feet warm. Mother loved to read and would read until midnight by coal oil lamp.

Mother and Dad moved to Calgary for the last few years of their lives. Dad passed away October 24, 1946 and Mother on April 10, 1960.

Bertha Tigner

The early settlers were bound together by close bonds of friendship since they had so much in common. The memory of their early struggles, their hardships and achievements live on in the minds and hearts of grateful people."

The Rhodes Family

In 1905 at the age of 55, Henry Rhodes sold his farm in Oregon and headed north for the new frontier land of the mighty Peace River Country with his wife (the former Mary Hanavolt, a school teacher from Pennsylvania) and one son John. They stopped in the Cayley district to visit a relative, John Rupert, who had filed on a homestead on the S.E.¼ of 34-17-27-W4. This land was bought by Moirs in 1910 and later sold to Hans Christofferson. Henry Rhodes stayed and bought the quarter across the road in Section 35 from a homesteader.

His neighbours, of course, were John Rupert to the west and to the south east, Richard Tigner. After his death, his wife, Dora, sold their homestead to Henry in 1909. Henry rented the E½ of section 35 from John Hollenberg, land that was not broken up until 1928. In 1940 it was sold to Karl Christofferson. The N.W.¼ of Section 35 was homesteaded by John Beagle, who died in a hunting accident some time in 1908. Jane Beagle and family lived there until 1912. Then it was bought by Hans Christofferson and on his death in 1959 it passed on to his daughter Mary and it is presently farmed by Bill Christofferson. Also in 1905 Henry Rhodes bought the N.E.¼ of 10-17-27-W4. In 1917 this land was sold to Felix and Eliza Moran.

Henry passed away in 1912, aged 62, leaving his widow, Mary, and two sons, John and Ira, to carry on.

John married Sadie Parker and in 1917 bought Dr. George Schamburger's homestead, and in 1951 he owned all of Section 36-17-27-W4. They had three sons, Clarence, John Allen and Charles, and one daughter, Doreen, Sadie passed away in 1960 and John in 1961.

Charles now owns the farm. He is married to a school teacher, the former Irene Haz, and has five children, Richard, Michael, David, Gerald and Mark.

John and Ira attended the Sharon school (District No. 1065) which was built on the N.E. corner of Section 24-17-27-W4.

Ira lives in the original house on the home place, which has been added to as the years passed by. Ira married Bertha Uris in 1936 and they have one son, Jack, married to Esther Walbour of Brant. They have two children, Valerie and Denis.

The Rhodes family has contributed much to the community life of this area. Mary Rhodes was a leader in the U.F.A. movement and a member of the Sharon school board for two years. Her son, Johnny, was secretary-treasurer of the same school board and on the board until the formation of the Vulcan county, when Sharon school was moved to Brant for a church hall. He was also a leader in the formation of the Alberta Wheat Pool and was a delegate from 1927 to 1930. He was a director of the Southern Alberta Dairy Pool and of the Alberta Poultry Producers. He was a member of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture. He was also involved in the U.F.A. movement. He also served on the Church Board. Along with his brother, Ira and Ira's wife, Bertha, and his son, Charles, he was a leader in scouting and sports of the community. Over the years the Rhodes

family has faithfully supported the Church and the Community. Just recently Bertha received the Red Cross pin for 20 years of service in that organization.

Harriet Pence.

DeWitts

Homesteader Nathan DeWitt was born in Indiana and his wife, Ida Peer was born in Olney, Illinois. They moved to North Dakota and then to Alberta in 1904 with a family of five boys. Later a girl was added to the family, Ruth.

Nathan homesteaded Sec.2-17-27-W4. His neighbours were Mr. and Mrs. King on the S.W. quarter and Fred Bennett, an Englishman, lived on the N.W. quarter. Guy Salters on the N.E. quarter (later owned by the Moran estate) and farmed in 1920-25 by Boyd Wallace, (now owned by Freda McPeek and farmed by Earl Eld). Mittens lived close as did Oscar and Bill Tigner and Sam Lehman's homestead is where Bob deRoaldes lives to-day. Other neighbours were Muirs, Frank Armey, Boomers, Hendersons, Nostriems, Reeds, Steins and McGillivarys.

Round Mound school was built in 1905 in S.E. corner of Sec.2 by Mr. Boon, a carpenter. He lived and slept in his wagon while building it.

DeWitts lived with Tigners while they built their two story frame house on the homestead. Son Mark tells us that "1906 and 7 were very tough years. The crops used to get frosted almost every year and we cut them as bundle feed and sold it to farmers east of Vulcan. Coal was hauled from Reid Hill and Thigh Hill mines. We ploughed fire guards around the section and planted rutabagas in it. The neighbours reaped the benefit of the fire guard and also helped themselves to the rutabagas. Tigner and Armey lost all their hay in one fire".

Mark also tells that one morning they heard cattle bawling so got up and tied the milk cow in as there was no fences around the quarter. The Bar U were moving cattle east. They continued to pass all day until sundown, trailed by Bar U cowboys and their chuck wagon.

Mark, Oscar Tigner and Ralph Salters helped herd Herbert Eckford's cattle back as far as Cayley. They came to one of the sloughs and bedded down for the night. Eckford's brother-in-law, Hendrie, wasn't too worried about cattle straying but Eckford's foreman, Mike Henry, was. Sure enough in the morning he said, "Wake up, you fellows, there's not a damn cow in sight". They were in a farmer's grain field.

DeWitts moved to Reid Hill district. Later son Mark moved to Arrowwood where he and his wife raised a family of five children, Robert, Muriel, Norman, Hazel and Arthur.

Harriet Pence.

Clifford Gould

Clifford Gould purchased land in the Cayley district (Section 11-17-27 W4) in 1958 from a man in Minneapolis. This land was previously farmed by Homer Thorne and by Jack D. Smith. The Gould girls are Carol (Mrs. Blaine Nixon) and Joan (Mrs. Gordon Rutherford).

Lon McPeaks

Mr. and Mrs. Lon McPeak and three children, King, Doyle and Lavern came from Missouri in 1924. They rented the Adam Armey farm and then moved to Vulcan before renting Section 23. Their next move was to the McPhail farm on the Little Bow. Mr. and Mrs. McPeak are now both deceased.

King McPeak, Mama, Lavern, Papa, Doyle.

King (deceased) married Freda Eld, their oldest daughter, Denzil married Grant Cameron of Cayley. Doyle married Alma Montgomery and Lavern is Mrs. Earl Eld. Earl farms south half of Section 2 for Freda. (The Salter and DeWitt homesteads).

Valuable Find

How many years or centuries the Indian carving had lain, face side down, in the Sloane pasture no one knows.

Wilbert Sloane found it as he drove the cows in, after it had been kicked over by one of the cows. It is carved from sandstone such as that found in the formations in Squaw Coulee.

Courtesy – Alvin Hedlund.

White arrowhead imbedded in pelvic bone of buffalo. Found by Creel Sanders at Old Woman Buffalo Jump. Metal arrowhead lying on bone.

Stone sculpture found by Wilbert Sloane in his cow pasture.

Peerless Wood Preservers Limited.

Cayley Harvest Scene.

Frank Brierley

Frank Brierley came to Canada from Leicester, England in 1988, coming over to visit Mr. William Colpman, mayor of Lethbridge, and his wife. After travelling for a few years and working at different jobs Frank decided to take up land. He considered Meadowbank a good district and settled there. He built a shack, 12 x 12, and with a tent lived there some time.

He met Miss Amelia Jackson, visiting with her brother Harry who had homesteaded the land now owned by John Nelson, and in 1911 they were married. He built a house that still stands there where he farmed, adding another 160 acres. They lived there till 1935, then rented the land and later sold it to Mrs. Brierley's brother, John Jackson.

Mr. and Mrs. Brierley with her neice, Beverly Myers, moved into High River, and a few years later to Victoria, B.C. and from there to Exeter, Ont. where Mrs. Brierley still resides. Frank passed away in 1948 at the age of 73 years.

M. Baines

The Story of Redmond Walsh

I was born on a farm in Ontario, near a little town called Hastings, not far from the city of Peterborough. In 1902 I went to B.C. and worked in some quartz mines near Nelson for about eight months. In May 1903 I came back over the Crows Nest Pass when the Frank Rock Slide was just over. A big snow storm and blizzard came up so my brother Harry and I stopped at Pincher Creek but we couldn't go any place because of the deep snow. That was the year the Bar U and some other big outfits shipped in a lot of Mexican cattle; the trains were held up because of the blizzard and many of the cattle died in the cars.

We landed at High River and Mr. Dan Riley (later Senator Riley) at that time ran a livery stable there. He was locating homesteaders so he located my brothers Harry and George and myself on homesteads about twelve or fourteen miles west of High River. A man by the name Spalding had a section of land joining ours, and on the other side the Highwood River ran. We bought Mr. Spalding's land and moved our shack down close to the river and lived there.

The winter of 1905 & 1906 we wintered one hundred head of cattle for Charlie MacKinnon and Alex Nesbeit for $5.00 per head for the winter, did all right as the winter was mild. So the next winter we took on more to winter at the same price. That was the notorious hard winter when a lot of ranchers lost heavily and we did the same as the others, we lost too. With the exception of one Chinook that lasted one night and one day, (it was a very warm chinook while it lasted, but the minute it stopped it was blowing cold and snowing from the northwest), we had deep snow and severely cold weather.

By this time there were quite a lot of settlers in around Meadowbank. Our nearest neighbours were some very fine Scotch people from Hensel, Ontario. Their names were Jim, Andrew, Lizzie and Mary Woods. They had some Registered Clydesdale horses. One day one of the horses kicked Jim in the face and he died a few days later. We missed him greatly. They were very good neighbours, Lizzie used to bake bread and pies for us that could not be surpassed. When one ate Lizzie's cooking, one knew they were eating something special. In fact all the ladies around Meadowbank were mighty fine cooks.

The years 1902 & 1903 were very wet. Some homesteaders had flowing

springs on their claims, but as the years became drier the flowing springs turned out to be seepage that was flowing out of Badger holes, which soon dried up. Sam Tretton had a homestead joining my brother George's place. I was plowing on George's place and Sam was plowing on his place, we happened to meet at the divisional fence at the same time, so Sam crawled through the fence and asked me for a chew of tobacco. He was talking all the time but I gave him the plug, he took a big bite and put the plug in his pocket and kept on talking. After awhile I wanted a chew so I asked Sam if he had any chewing tobacco, he pulled out my tobacco, handed it to me, I took a chew, put the plug in my pocket, got on the plow and plowed away!

The year 1910 was very dry. There were small crops around the country, but what little they grew was in stacks. J.D. Still had a threshing outfit, he hired Joe Walsh, Frank Sheehan and myself for part of his crew, to fork bundles. Frank Sheehan had just arrived from Ontario with only one suit of clothes and it was a dress suit. He also wore a Christy Stiff hat. But alas! His finery did not look so dressy when the threshing was over.

They held a Fall Fair in High River and Mr. Still let his help off to go in to celebrate. So Frank, Joe and I went to the Fair. Mr. Still gave me a half gallon jug and $1.00 to get him some Rye Whisky in High River from Joe LeMoge who ran the High River Trading Co. and Liquor Stores. When I asked him to fill the jug, he took me up to the Liquor Store, unlocked the door, and there were seven or eight barrels of whisky on benches with taps on each one. Joe asked what kind I wanted; I said "Rye" but he thought we should sample it to make sure it was the proper stuff. By the time we had decided on the kind I was ready to go to the Fair, jug and all.

The summer of 1910 I took a trip to the Peace River Country, thought of settling there, but at that time it was so difficult to get in there that I changed my mind and moved to Bassano in 1911, where I got married and have lived ever since.

Redmond Walsh

Dan and Ida Campbell

Mrs. Ida Campbell came from Collingwood, Ontario to Cranbrook in 1899 and married Dan Campbell in 1902. Mr. Campbell worked on railroad construction through the mountains and took the first load of freight through the Crowsnest to Fernie with horses.

They came to Alberta in 1904 and took up a homestead on the S.W. quarter of 18-1-W5. Mr. Campbell was pit foreman at the Parton Mine for some time. They built a shack but no fences so had to keep the pony tethered so they would have transportation to town, sixteen miles away. The worst problem was getting supplies and hauling water. Mr. Campbell was road boss when they did all the road work with horses. Their nearest neighbours were the Wood brothers.

In 1922 they bought the Baronet Church (which was built about 1907) and lived in it for several years. Mrs. Campbell sold the land to J. Rockafellow in 1962 and moved to High River.

Their children were; Malcom, deceased in 1962, Donald in Edmonton, Cassie Leman of Nanton, Lily Miller and Edna Kemps in Calgary, Vinie Posegate of Turner Valley and Kenneth of Barrhead.

John Stephenson Stephenson

John Stephenson Stephenson, his wife Margaret, with their four children, John, Norman, Stanley and Gladys, came from Northumberland, England to Can-

ada in May, 1903. Mr. Stephenson finally located by taking up a homestead in the Meadowbank district, which at that time was largely unfenced and untamed prairie, with only the deeply rutted Bar U trail stretching across it. They moved on to the homestead in the spring of 1904 to put in the required six months residence duties for each of three years as their part of the bargain in obtaining the land. A tent, pitched on the open prairie, with the range cattle and horses which were all around, was their habitation for that first summer. They stayed until the high Fall winds threatened to take it into orbit from over their heads, and a heavy snow-fall in September pressed it down almost upon their heads, as they lay in bed.

Providentially, it was a very fine summer. The mountains provided a very beautiful background of scenery, the prairies were a vast garden of wild flowers, and the Highwood river, flowing under its cutbanks some half mile away, provided unbelievable and unfailing quantities of fish, and good swimming in the warmer pools of the South fork, which joins the North just there. Quantities of wild fruit grew near its banks.

While Mr. Stephenson and the oldest son, John, had work at the Sheppard Ranch, some six miles away for the summer, the younger members of the family roamed prairie and river-banks at will. However, Mrs. Stephenson, upon whom fell the hardships of such a life, probably did not enjoy it in quite the same way, but she often accompanied them on their excursions. Mr. Stephenson walked home to the tent each week-end to spend Sunday, returning in time for Monday's work. He never seemed to be tired, but enjoyed his hike of some six miles each way. Englishmen were great walkers in those days. He was very proud of his homestead, and always maintained that he had the best homestead in Alberta.

They soon had near neighbours, as they watched several covered wagons appear from time to time. Two of them, the J.D. Stills with a family of girls, and the Mitchells, with a large family of boys, took adjoining land. The Mitchells later sold out and went back to the States. They also spent the summer in tents. Dock Mitchell was an early rider at the first rodeos. It was easier to get supplies out after that, as the Stephensons were dependant on those who had wagons, as they had no horses nor wagon of their own. They had no cow either, but the boys would catch fish in the river and trade them to Mrs. Woodhouse for butter. With willow poles, a thick line, plain hooks with grasshoppers for bait, they caught all the trout they wanted, stringing them on a forked stick.

The complete change and novelty of living in such a way, almost as primitive as the Indians, the various dangers and incidents that were encountered, made it an unforgettable year.

When that first snow made the tent more or less untenable they returned to High River for the winter, where the only accomodation they could find available didn't provide much more protection from the weather. Shacks were thrown up hastily in those days and were only shells of houses. It turned out to be a cold, severe winter, after the previous mild one, and the snow, along with the icy winds, drifted through the many cracks. It was common to wake to find the walls coated inside with frost, and everything that was at all liquid frozen solid, which had to be thawed out before breakfast could be had. Pretty rugged living!

But things changed rapidly from then on. Homesteaders were now pouring in, and the prairie was soon pent in and girded as their fences divided and sub-divided it all up. And from then on the Stephenson fortunes, by dint of much hard toil, and through many disasters, disappointments and heart-aches, were gradually built up, more and more land acquired, better housing provided and things made generally easier.

Mr. Stephenson lived to be eighty-six, and Mrs. Stephenson, though always extremely fragile and delicate looking, outlived eight brothers and sisters, and

saw her ninety-seventh year. Mr. Stephenson died in 1936 and Mrs. Stephenson in 1958.

Their son Stanley started farming in the Cayley district in 1924. In 1949 he married a former High School teacher from High River, Dorothy Diller, and they retired in Edmonton.

Gladys was a telephone operator for a number of years, then cared for her parents until 1958. She married Lee Rowell of the Shepard district and they now live retired in Calgary.

John joined the army the first week of January, 1915 with the 12th C.M.R.'s serving in France for two years with the Machine Gun Squadron of the Fort Garry Horse, being discharged in the spring of 1919. In 1920 he purchased his father's farm, and in December, 1925 married Cora Fulton who had been Chief-Operator in the High River telephone office for many years. They retired to High River in 1949.

They had three children. Edward, who married Kay Clarke of Belleville, Ont. Edward lost his life in a tragic fire in March, 1956. Winnifred (Mrs. Clarke Scobie) of Fort St. John, with four children and Rose Marie (Mrs. Joe Dayment) of Longview. They have four children.

Norman Stephenson

Norman's first years in Canada were spent on his father's homestead in Meadowbank where he learned to share the farm work.

In the spring of 1914 he and his brother Stanley decided to have a try at homesteading. Having gathered together some horses and equipment they drove across country, crossing the Bow and Red Deer rivers by ferry. They took up homesteads in the Youngstown district. The summer was spent in building their shacks, a sod barn to protect the horses from the mosquitoes, and in breaking ninty acres of land. They drove back again in the fall and had the grand sum of fifteen cents between them when they reached Bassano. Here they bought a loaf of bread which had to last them till they reached High River.

World War One had started and in January, 1915 Norman enlisted with the 12th C.M.R.'s and on arrival in England was transferred to the Machine gun section of the Fort Garry Horse with which unit he served until his discharge in March of 1919.

On his return he worked in the C.P.R. yards in Calgary for a few months but left it to go farming.

In 1921 he bought a quarter section of land on the edge of Cayley through the Soldier Settlement Board, and in 1925 bought another quarter adjoining it from Arthur Walker. The first quarter he bought was one which had been previously reserved for and used by the stockmen when shipping cattle. This created problems for the stockmen and the new owner alike, which they were always able to solve in spite of the very unco-operative attitude of the cattle from the hills, who had ideas of their own often acting as if the fence and crop just weren't there. The problem became particularly acute when blacktop was put on the highway going past the stockyards. Getting the cattle from the hills to start across it was well nigh impossible. Rod Macleay, with characteristic ingenuity, solved it by arranging with Norman for his old jersey milk cow, Amy. One of the cowboys would lead her across the highway and into the stockyards and the cattle would

follow quietly. It may not have been in the best cowboy tradition but it was effective and saved a great deal of shrinkage on the cattle as well as wear and tear on riders, horses, and Norman's fences.

In 1926 Norman married Jean MacDougall. Their oldest son Kenneth is a grain buyer for the Wheat Pool, the second son Ronald is farming at Crossfield, their daughter Norma Lendrum is teaching in Calgary. They have four grandchildren. Ken married Marie Charlton and they farmed west of Cayley several years.

Norman was a member of the Cayley School Board for several years until they joined the Foothill School Division in 1941. He was one of the building committee when the Cayley Curling Rink was built and later served as president. He has been a member of the Cayley I.O.O.F. lodge since 1922. Mr. Beaton Sr. and Norman, together collected for Red Cross from the beginning of World War Two until 1963 for which they were given a citation by the Red Cross.

In 1961 he sold his farm to W. Starke and retired to High River.

William Barnes

William and Josie Barnes were married in Missouri in 1881 where he was a school teacher. They moved to Washington about 1900 and in 1904 he came to homestead in the Meadowbank district - one and a half miles directly north of the spot where the school was to be built in the next year or so. The eldest daughter, Lou and her husband, Tony Ralph had taken up land the previous year on the N.E. quarter of the same section and were living there. The son Herman filed on the S.E. quarter and daughter Cora and her husband, Frank York on the S.W. quarter so the Barnes family had a one section block. Mr. Barnes went back to Ritzville, Washington to carry on his dray buisness. Mrs. Barnes and the family packed and shipped all their belongings and came to establish a home in Alberta. The family travelled on a slow, twice-a-week mixed passenger and freight train but their household effects must have been on an even slower one for they did not arrive until many months later. In the meantime Herman, his mother and sisters, Eva, Clara, Mary and Rethel built a two roomed house with a sleeping attic reached by an outside ladder. By this time it was winter and they had no furniture, no beds and only a small tin cook stove to cook on and to heat the house. Hay-filled sacks on the floor were the beds and since there was no oven, bannock took the place of bread (except for the times that the girls carried bread ingredients to their sister Lou's and carried home the warm loaves). The next year they built a sod chicken house and barn, cutting the sods from the lush prairie grassland.

Grass, which the wind whirled into little stooks was everywhere – just grass and numerous sloughs – no fences – but lots of cattle roaming in herds and they were wild! They were not much worried by men on horseback but were a hazard to people on foot so the girls had to be particularly careful to choose a good time to visit with their sister and later on when they walked to school. Eva, Clara and Mary were students at the Meadowbank school when it was first opened.

Mrs. Barnes was successful in growing one of the first vegetable gardens in this part of the country and in 1908 raised sweetpeas to decorate for her daughter Eva's wedding to Chester Beagle.

The homesteaders depended on the plentiful wild game and it was possible to shoot priairie chicken right from the wagon seat. This meat, along with that of

ducks and rabbits was salted down in crocks. Fruit was the wild variety – saskatoons, gooseberries, wild strawberries and chokecherries. Dried prunes and apples were purchased in the stores.

Mr. Barnes was only occasionally with the family as he had to make enough money to keep them going – very little of the land was broken up and so there was very little return from it. He secured work with a company building grain elevators from Macleod to Red Deer and so moved up and down that line until 1908. He assisted in building the Cummings elevator in Cayley and got the job of operating it. The family then moved to Cayley, living in a house on the east side of town just across the alley from the town hall.

Mrs. Barnes was skilled in the art of practical nursing and served the community in that capacity – often working with Dr. A.O. Brown.

Herman married Alpha Stevens of Cayley in 1910 and Clara married Ralph Chaffee in 1911. In 1913 Mr. and Mrs. Barnes with their two daughters, Mary and Rethel moved back to Washington, living for a time at Olympia, but settling finally in Spokane where Will worked in a candy and biscuit factory. Will died in 1929 and Josie in 1931.

Of the family only two remained to make their homes in the district – Eva Beagle and Clara Chaffee.

Lola Hanson

W.J. Murdoch Family

W.J. (Billy) Murdoch was born in Hensall, Ontario and came to Sask. in 1902, and homesteaded in the Meadow Bank district in 1903. He built a shack, later used as a blacksmith shop, when he built what is the back porch and kitchen. While "proving up" on his homestead he worked as a carpenter on several farms and ranches in the area.

He returned to Ontario and married Mary Robertson Ross (Mae) of Seaforth, Ontario on January 26, 1905. They returned and for a short time stayed with Vennings, now known as the Bishop farm. The rest of their home was built in 1918.

Their nearest neighbours on the present Bill Stephenson place were George Walsh, Mike Bowlen, brother of Father Bowlen and of former Lieut.-Gov. Bowlen, and Frank Sheehan.

Both were interested in community affairs. Mr. Murdoch served as a school trustee and on the hall board. Mrs. Murdoch was one of the original members of the Meadow Bank Community Club. When the district decided to build a hall, several dances and turkey suppers were held in this home to raise funds. Mr. Murdoch spent many weeks working on the hall, the seats in the upstairs of the present hall were built by him.

In the early years of their marriage, Mr. Murdoch contracted typhoid fever and was in a coma for several weeks in the Holy Cross Hospital. The tension of his illness together with the loss of two baby girls at birth caused his wife to have St. Vitus dance. The next child, a son lived to eleven years of age. The next three children, Isabelle, (Mrs. Wallace McIntyre) lives in High River, Alex lives at Turner Valley and Catharine (Mrs. Archie Stephenson) at Invermere, B.C.

Mr. Murdoch died in 1942 and Mrs. Murdoch in 1949. The farm is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Brockway.

Isaac Jackson

In the year 1904, Isaac Jackson came West from Ontario to help his brother Harry with his harvest. He walked from High River along the old Bar U Trail. There were few houses along the trail then – one was the house on the farm that Wat Jackson owns now, Section 12-18-30-W4, originally Hudson Bay land. The nearest house was on the land later known as the Grey Miles farm. There were other houses on the Keystone Ranch and the Hoeh place.

Isaac Jackson returned East and came back to High River with his wife in 1907. He worked for Andy Wallace on the farm just north of town. His son Wat was born in that old square ranch house. Tom McIntyre was the foreman and Miss Mabel Soderburg helped Mrs. Jackson at that time.

The Jacksons homesteaded at Medicine Hat in 1910 and returned to High River in 1924. Wat and Glen took the farm over when Mr. Jackson died in 1948. Wat is still living there.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Gillespie

Roy came West from Innerkip, Ontario in 1903 and homesteaded across the road from his brother, A.B. Gillespie. I was born Sarah Helena (Helen) Grearson, in the town of St. George, New Brunswick. My Mother's maiden name was Edith Anne McVicar. I took my Normal School training at Frederickton, N.B.

At that time the West was advertising for young people to come out, so my brother Will came out to teach and take up land. That made me want to come too so in 1913 I came to High River to a cousins, Mrs. H.H. Dexter. Mrs. Dexter's brothers Arch and Ward Dick were here, also a cousin, George McVicar, from Ontario. As I was getting off the train at High River, I saw across the street the "St. George Hotel", which to this day brings memories of my home back East.

I was asked to teach at the Meadow Bank School and I boarded with the Fred Roy's. I was there one year, then went East for the holidays and returned in the autumn to teach at Carmangay. Again I went East in the summer but on Feb. 24, 1916 I was married to Mr. Roy Gillespie of Cayley and came back to live on his land about seven miles west of Cayley in the Meadow Bank district. We lived in his shack but after the crop was in we built our home. We had a housewarming and dance in the fall of 1916.

Our neighbours were the Roys, McKinnons, Powers, Meyers, McConkeys and Sweets. We did a lot of visiting and our transportation was the horse and buggy. Those were the War Years 1914-1918 and we had box socials and dances to raise money for the Red Cross. I remember one supper at the High River Wheat & Cattle Co., where the boxes were auctioned off and my box was bought for forty-five dollars by Mr. Douglas Riddell. At one time a mule was sold with your ticket. When the mule was drawn for my husband won it and I think the ticket cost him $2.50.

We had a telephone at this time and it was not long till we had Rural Mail Delivery.

We had two children, Jean who married Mr. Stan Armstrong from Nanton. They have two children and have a Motel, "Cozy Pines", south of Red Deer. Our son

Roy is at Brooks. He married Miss Charlotte Low of High River. They have four children and are also in the Motel business.

In 1928 we moved to High River. My husband died in 1947. I still have the farm and it is ably cared for by Mr. Cecil Longson. I still run cattle.

Roy's brother A.B. Gillespie died in Vancouver in 1947.

Helen Gillespie

J.D. MacMillan Family

My father came west to the Meadow Bank District in 1904 from Prince Ed. Island. My mother, Helen N. came from West River, P.E.I. in 1905. My father chose the Meadow Bank District because he liked the lay of the land, the view of the mountains and he thought the soil was exceptionally good. He purchased the land from Mr. William Murdoch, who lived across the road, and named it "Meadow Bank Farm".

We built a house, not the first year we were there, but the next spring as I remember. There were no buildings on our land so my father rented a house from Mr. Nat McLaren, which was probably three or more miles east of our place, and we lived there for a period of time, and while there we went to the Last Chance School.

In the Meadow Bank district there were six children of school age with no place to go to school, and in order to get a Government grant to build a school it was necessary to have 12 children in the district, so we moved up to our farm, as there were six of us children, and they were given the Grant. However, as we didn't have our house built as yet, we moved into a granary which had an upstairs, and that is where we lived until our house was completed. It was pretty rugged living. I can remember we children slept upstairs and the only way of getting upstairs was by an outside stairs with a landing at the top with no railing around it, and you can imagine trying to open the door to get inside while standing on this small platform and a 40 mile an hour wind blowing. Incidently, the door opened out.

Our early experiences were hum drum. We had no conveniences in the house in those days, and the water situation was a problem. The first well my father dug would probably be about twenty feet, and the water was very hard and full of alkali, and we had to pull it up by hand with a rope and bucket. Later on we got a deeper well with a windlass.

As we lived twelve miles from High River the young fry seldom, if ever got to town, so it was more or less quite a lonely existence. I think horse back riding, the odd basket social when there was a get together, and going to school and church about covered our activities. The most fun for the boys was riding calves and pigs and all the pranks a family of six could think of.

There were six children. Robert (Bert) MacMillan, deceased, Alexander lives in Detroit, is retired. Helen N. Watt (widow) lives in Calgary. Clayton is a retired farmer living at Vulcan. Penelope J. Crosland lives in North Vancouver, B.C. and Harriet, Mrs. Dwight Ellis lives on a farm just east of Calgary, their property now adjoins the city limits.

A Mr. McCullough from Ontario bought our farm, but I do not remember in what year. We moved away from Meadow Bank in the spring of 1909. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Stephenson and family now own the farm.

Clayton MacMillan

The Fred C. Roy Family

Fredrick Charles Roy and Winnifred Louise Cupples, were married in Boston in 1902.

They came west in 1904 and settled on the farm west of Cayley, where I and my family now live.

F.C. Roy was a member of the Meadowbank School Board for many years, until becoming Secretary-Treasurer in 1917, a post he held until the local schools were absorbed into the large Unit.

He was a member of the L.I.D. Council for a number of years, and when the Municipal District of Riley was formed in 1918, he was elected councillor in his division, a position he held continuously I think, until 1929, when he was appointed Sec.-Treas. of the Municipality, succeeding the late Wm. Caspell.

After his appointment as Sec.-Treas., he and mother left the farm and moved to Cayley.

He was also Sec.-Treas. of the village of Cayley from 1929 to 1944.

In 1944 when the M.D. of Riley and the M.D. of Sheep Creek joined to form the M.D. of Highwood, they moved to High River to live, as the Municipal Office would be more centrally located there.

He remained as Sec.-Treas. of Highwood until his death in November of 1945.

Mother continued to live in High River until her death in January of 1956.

They had a family of three; two boys, Vinton and Arnold, and a daughter Rena.

The Vinton Roys, live on the home place and have two daughters, Patricia and Phyllis.

The Arnold Roys, live west of Cayley and have a son Bruce, and two daughters Colleen and Winnifred.

Rena (Mrs. Walter Hartell) lives in Calgary and has a son Roy and a daughter Faye.

Vinton Roy

Woods Family

Andrew, Lizzie and Jim Woods came from Ontario to Meadowbank in 1904. Lizzie was noted for her wonderful meals. They raised registered Clydesdale horses and one kicked Jim in the face and he died several days after.

They sold their farm to Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Airth.

The Wesley Ferris Family

Lillie Richardson came to Calgary in 1904 from Watford, Ontario and had a dressmaking shop on 8th Ave., approximately where the Bay is now. At that time 8th Ave. was called Stephen Avenue. Wesley Ferris came from near Collingwood,

Ontario the same year and homesteaded west of Cayley. They were married in 1906 and farmed for a time and then moved into Cayley where they had the Post Office, Telephone Exchange and a livery barn.

While living in the Cayley area their children were born: Morley in 1908, Erwin 1910, Arnold 1912, Marian 1914 and Wilbert in 1916. In 1920 they moved to Red Deer for one year, then farmed at Coronation until 1924. June was born there in 1923. They lived at Lovay from 1924 to 1928 then moved to Grand Prairie.

Mrs. Ferris died at Debolt in 1956 and Mr. Ferris at Honeywood, Ontario in 1965.

At present (Mrs. Don Roy) and Erwin live in Grand Prairie, Arnold at Goodwin, Web, and Morely at High Prairie.

John Arthur and Clara Bishop

John Arthur Bishop from near Halifax, Nova Scotia and Clara McGoff of Vermont, Mass. were married in Boston in 1897. They left for Denver, Col. where he worked for a large cow outfit for about two years. Then they moved to California until 1904 when he loaded his belongings on a box car and set out for Olds in Sunny Alberta. The prairies and mountains looked so nice that he stopped in High River to look around for a few days. While he was there he met a man by the name of Long Baker, who lived on the east end of the Bar U flat. Baker asked him if he would come out and help him get out logs for building and help with haying for the Bar U. He said he knew of a good homestead, so Mr. Bishop stayed. One of the men who helped him put up our building was Joe Doty, an oldtimer in these parts. Mrs. Bishop and the two boys, Harold and Ralph, went back to Vermont, Mass. for the winter with her folks.

Mr. & Mrs. John Bishop and family (1910)

We left there about the first of June, 1905 and had to go to Montreal to take the train to Alberta. We met a man by the name of Billy Lawer who came all the way with us. He had a harness shop in High River. We arrived home on June 6th and it was snowing. Dad was there to meet us with a team and wagon to take us the sixteen miles to our homestead. When we got to our gate our old dog was waiting for us. In the hard winters of 1906 & 7 Dad hauled hay to the livery stables for $5.00 a ton.

I remember Dad got us a little white pony in 1907 for us to ride. One day I was going for a ride so I tied the pony to the grindstone to put the bridle on him. The pony pulled back and away he went with the grindstone. I ran into the house and hid under the bed until things cooled off. It took quite a while for me to find all the pieces to that grindstone!

Our neighbours were Charlie Lehr, Doc. La Claire, the horse dealer, the Robinson family, Mr. and Mrs. Ivy Law and Mr. and Mrs. Fay Wood and Myron. We moved up by Meadowbank in 1909 to go to school. Our first teacher was Mr. Neil Ross.

Dad rented this place from a Mr. Vening from Ontario who put up some of the buildings in 1902. Later he sold his land to Mr. Calhoun who worked in the Oxford Hotel in High River and Dad bought it from him.

There are only three of the Bishop family left – Harold of High River, Gordon of Kamloops, B.C. and Norman of Brooks.

We did not have trouble getting through the bad years of the 30's as we worked for R.L. McMillan from 1930 to 1935. Wages were from $10.00 a month for one winter. After that I got the highest wages which were $30.00 a month and I had a a wife and two boys to keep.

I bought the home place at Meadowbank in 1949 and then moved up here in 1954 where we are now residing.

Harold Bishop

H.S. Sweet Family

Henry Sylvester Sweet came from Kerwood, Ontario in 1904 to the Cayley district. He spent the winter feeding cattle for the Westrop Bros. and then homesteaded land now owned by Frank Bedu. He purchased the land from Henry Richardson. (1-18-30-W4).

Addie Richardson, a cousin of Henry Richardson and a school mate of Sylvester's came west to be married in 1909. They were married on the farm north of Beamers at her sister's, Mrs. Wes Ferris. They resided in the Meadowbank district and there their children were born: Rena (Mrs. Grant Duncan) lives at Meadowbank, Marie (Mrs. John Fix) is in High River. Alvin and Jerry still reside in Meadowbank.

Before the school was built Church services were held in the Sweet home. The minister would ride horseback between Cayley, Meadowbank and Longview. Mr. Sweet took an active part in all community affairs, having served on the church board, school trustee and hall board.

Mrs. Sweet died in 1930 and Mr. Sweet retired to New Westminister, B.C. in 1943 and married Edna Walters. The sons continued farming operations after his death in 1947.

Alvin and Jerry Sweet Families

Alvin and Jerry (William Gerald) were both born in the farm home and went to school at the Meadowbank school and spent their lives in this district except for the years that Jerry spent in the Army. Jerry joined the Army in 1942 and served in Canada and overseas until his discharge in 1946. Alvin did custom trucking until he gave it up a couple of years ago.

Alvin married Jean Moncrieff and they have no family and they still live in the Meadowbank district.

Jerry married Lillian dePaoli in 1946 and he still resides on the home place. They have four children – Garry, Brian, Dale and Wanda.

Brian, Dale and Wanda have won many awards with their gymnastics and Brian for his ability at track meets also.

Meadowbank Church

Prior to 1905 church services were held in the Richardson home, which later belonged to the Sweet family. Student Ministers used to travel from Cayley on horseback, or with a horse and buggy to conduct these services. In their absence Mr. Richardson conducted the meeting.

Meadowbanks School, taken July, 1967. – In the photo are people who attended school, taught school and were in the district prior to 1900. *Garon Photo.*

In 1905 the Meadowbank school was built and services were held there until the first Methodist Church was built in 1907 at Baronet, which was about two miles west of Meadowbank School. The first Minister was Rev. Mann.

About 1916 the Church at Baronet was closed, when the congregation became too small to keep the church going. The building was sold to Dan Campbell, who used it as a home for many years.

The resident Minister at Cayley used to come out and hold services in the Fosk hall until the Meadowbank hall was opened in 1938. Services were held here for awhile, then once again the Meadowbank school was used.

In 1952 the Meadowbank school was closed, and the people of the district with the help of Rev. Wood from Cayley purchased the building and fixed it up to be used as a church.

In 1962 the congregation became too small to support the church so services were discontinued and the members joined with the Cayley Church.

Lois Brockway

Clarence and Emma Soderberg

Clarence came to Canada to farm the land his father had bought from William and Elwood Short, west of High River. I came as a bride in 1907 from Cambridge, Illinois.

My earliest experience was arriving in High River on a blustery March Sunday, driving with horse and buggy over prairie trails, opening nine or ten gates, arriving at our destination near dusk. Below the hill stood a small unpainted part log house, my future home. We opened the kitchen door but I was not carried across, I was slapped in the face with a coyote hide as I entered. I let out a scream you could hear for miles. A bachelor had been looking after the place and he had gone coyote hunting, he was very proud of his success but not "poor me."

I remember my husband gave me two five dollar bills with which to buy a new fall hat, I bought my hat, opened my purse to pay for it and no money! I thought I must have mislaid it at home but it couldn't be found, so no new hat. The next spring my husband was walking through the bush below our house and he found a five dollar bill, he rummaged around and found the second five dollar bill. My purse must have been partly open, our strong chinook wind blew the two bills over the hill, the leaves were falling fast and covered them up for the winter. Was I happy to get a new Easter bonnet?

Our closest neighbours were over two miles away, Mr. and Mrs. Barnes, parents of Mrs. Beagle and Mrs. Chaffee of High River. The greatest problem for many was the poor roads and modes of transportation. Some used a lumber wagon, we were fortunate as we had a yellow wheeled buggy. There was no telephone, radio or television. We didn't mind it except in case of illness. I remember a small girl living way up in the foothills and they needed a special medicine to save her life. They posted horses about fifteen miles apart, chose an expert rider and he rode at break-neck speed from place to place, jumped on the fresh horse, and made it to High River and back in record time.

We had to make our own fun in those days. Our house had a large kitchen so we often had neighbourhood dances and parties with local music, with the price not over fifty cents. We had fund raising oyster suppers and organized a debating society which met in the Meadow Bank school every two weeks. The program was local talent, debates and spelling matches.

In the depression we put in three hundred acres of crop and harvested one small load of dried out oats.. In order to boost our finances my husband built a hog house with a grain storeroom and with an outlet to the river so the pigs could go for water, but the old Highwood River went on a rampage and fences, some poultry, one or two calves and the building all went down the river. Our loss was small compared to many others. We pulled in our belt and made the best of it. I, myself, did chores, milked cows, fed calves, looked after the garden and the chickens – it was the old setting hen in those days. I remember the day when I sold my turkeys and bought the first set of dishes I ever had. Once a week I drove Lizzie to town and sold cream and eggs at the High River Creamery, receiving approximately two dollars for a can of cream and sometimes one dollar for twelve dozen eggs. I washed on a washboard for many years, until my husband went to a sale and brought home a five dollar washer, the joy of my life.

When we retired to High River we sold our farm to Cliff Herbig and it was later sold to Nelson brothers. Melvin Nelson now lives there. Our son Leland E. Soderberg lives just a short distance west of High River.

I have held offices in the Meadow Bank Club, Rebekah Lodge and Highwood W.I.

Emma Soderberg

Raymond Horace Myers

Raymond Horace Myers of Minneapolis and Rebecca Widmer Law of San Francisco were married in 1908 and spent most of their first married year on their farm in North Dakota before moving to the Cayley district in 1909.

Mr. Myers looked at land from Okotoks to Claresholm before buying at the location eight miles west of Cayley. This piece of land was range land purchased from Mr. R.L. MacMillan and was formerly part of the Heartz Ranch.

Many years later the deep ruts of the old overland trail, cutting across country to High River were still plainly visible between the buildings.

Mr. and Mrs. Myers only daughter Katherine married Percy Gardner of Pekisko. The Percy Gardners have one son Harvey, married to Barbara Flesher of Breton, Alberta, and one grandson, Cameron Trent Gardner.

Mr. Myers retired from active farming in 1947 and rented the farm to Mr. & Mrs. J. Arnold Roy.

George Bell

Mr. Bell came from Scotland and homesteaded in 1909 at Big Prairie near Carstairs, with his uncle Walter Bell. In 1915 he returned to Scotland to be married and brought his bride back to the homestead where they lived until 1917 when they moved to Meadowbank.

He was in partnership with a Mr. Nelson for two years and then bought his partner out.

Mrs. Bell died in 1921 leaving three children; Elsie and Norman are in Calgary and Graham in Egerton.

Mr. Bell married Mary Williamson in 1925 and they have two children; Mary in Calgary and John in Vancouver.

Mr. and Mrs. Bell retired in 1941 and now live in Calgary.

David Duncan Family

We came from Exeter, Ontario to Grand Coulee near Regina in 1907 and to High River in June 1909. We brought horses, milk cows and chickens with us, and on the way supplied the railway men with milk and eggs so we received real service all the way to High River.

My father and my uncle, Wm Monteith, had formed a partnership and bought 927 acres from Walsh Brothers – part of Section 2-18-1-W5, the south half of 10-18-1 and the NW¼ of Section 2. The Walsh Brothers moved us from High River out to the farm. We left one horse in town under the care of Dr. Ford. The pony had got loose and helped himself to some wheat in a barrel that we had for chicken feed so was badly foundered.

I was just a young fellow then and I hadn't wanted to leave my friends at Regina. High River seemed such wild country. Walsh's horses jumped around a lot, there were stones everywhere – which I wasn't used to – and the river was in flood. At the farm we had only river water to drink, and with the flood on, it was dark with mud. We would leave the pails until the mud settled to the bottom before we used it.

The Monteith's came out from Exeter in July, and we six Duncans and the eight Monteiths lived in one house that summer. We called the place Montcan Ranch.

The winter of 1909-10 was an open one with very little snow. The River Road was all down-hill to haul the grain, and the few gates we had to open was the only inconvenience.

We were soon happy in the new district. There were country dances, with Mr. Root and the McBee Boys providing the music. A Literary Society was formed and we met at the school for spelling matches, debates and plays, even though some of us didn't have much talent it was lots of fun. Our nearest neighbors were Mr. and Mrs. George Willard. Nellie and Grant went to school at Meadowbank, also three of the Monteith children.

The Monteiths moved to Calgary in 1912. That year we moved to I.V. Law's homestead which was then owned by Mr. Bitzer. We later moved to Dr. Le Claire's place, then back to the original place.

Our hall was built in the 1930's. It was quite a struggle but the whole community got behind and made a go of it. It is a big asset to the district.

Two of our family, Grant and Nellie (Mrs. Charles Carter) still live at Meadowbank. Mabel (Mrs. Neil Ross), Joan (Mrs. Charlie Hartell) and I, Wilbert, live in High River.

W. Duncan

Karl and Frieda Riehs

In the late spring of 1933 we moved to the Meadowbank district from New Dayton, south of Lethbridge. We chose Meadowbank because we had heard, even befor we were looking for a new place, that the High River and Cayley area were very good mixed farming areas, especially towards the Foothills. We bought our land from George Willard, N½ of 10-18-1-W5.

It was not the old homestead shack or the old run down farmyard and farm that made us decide to buy the place, it was the good old water well "windmill". At the previous farm we had to haul water from an irrigation ditch about two and a half miles away so we knew what good water and plenty of it meant to a farmer.

We had only harvested sixty bushels of very poor grade grain that first year due to frost. To top it all off we were both hospitalized the same fall. In 1936 the crops made around ten bushels per acre and we had low grain prices. The dry summer was followed by a very cold winter and a lot of snow.

Our faithful "Mailman", Oliver Jones, was not able to deliver the mail by car so we loaned him our white mules. He made two trips weekly with them, from High River to the E.P. Ranch, altogether he made thirteen trips.

We built a new house and all the rest of the buildings except the barn. Our greatest problems were poor crops and low prices, also we had many very bad dust storms. One New Years Day we had to stay overnight with one of our neighbors as we were unable to face the dust and sand as we were driving a horse and buggy. The first few years our nearest neighbors were the Elmer McKethen family, George Bell family and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bishop.

In those days we really enjoyed the card parties in the homes and school. Also the neighborly visiting which bound us more closely together. From the hardships we went through we have learned to appreciate the good things in life.

Our farm is now operated and taken over by our two sons, Carl and Bill.

Frieda Riehs

Earl Watson Jackson

I am known as "Wat" in the Meadow Bank district that I have lived in since 1924. At that time my parents, Isaac and Mable Jackson, who had homesteaded at Medicine Hat, moved to the Cayley district. My father's brother and a sister lived in the Meadow Bank district.

I went to school at Mosquito Creek. I remember that one day some of us boys climbed up on the roof and into the belfry and from there carried on a mud fight with the teacher, a man.

In the spring of 1927 my parents purchased this farm which is located one mile east and one and one half miles north of Meadow Bank hall. The place had previously been owned by Bill Macleod, and before that by Bob Wilkinson and a man called Rutherford, who I believe had purchased it from the Hudson Bay Co. Our nearest neighbours were the Eastons to the north and Jenkins and Sweets to the south.

One of our main forms of entertainment was the country dances to which we often rode ten or fifteen miles to on our saddle horses, sometimes arriving home just in time to go to work.

My father passed away shortly after my brother and I took over his farm in 1948 and since then my brother has moved to another farm.

I have two children, both of whom attended Meadow Bank school. Joyce married Louie Lendrum and lives at Lethbridge and my son James lives at Beaverdell, B.C. I have served on the executive of the Pioneer Credit Union of High River and also on the Rodeo Committee.

W. Jackson

Mr. and Mrs. A. Airth

Alexander and Marjory Airth came from Stonehaven, Scotland in 1929 and to Meadowbank in 1930 to be near two brothers who already had settled here. The previous owner of their farm was Andrew and Lizzie Wood and their nearest neighbor was the Dan Campbell family.

One of their greatest problems was hauling coal from the coal mine. They recall going for coal one day with a sleigh, a chinook came through and they couldn't get home.

They had one child, Alexander Stephen Airth. He is with the Calgary Power and lives at Bassano.

The Airth farm was purchased by Malcolm Campbell and the Airths retired in High River. Mr. Airth has since passed away.

Andrew and Andrea Husby

They each came from Norway to the United States where they met and married. In 1917 they immigrated to Canada and homesteaded at Bingville, forty miles northeast of Medicine Hat. In that same year they went to work for Floyd Derrick, a neighbor and continued to work for him in his moves to the Weiser farm west of High River in 1924, to the Keystone Ranch in 1928 and to the McConnell farm east of High River in 1932. In 1934 the Husbys rented the Bethard farm in the Meadowbank district and farmed there until 1945 when they retired to High River.

Andrew is a veteran of the South African War (and as this is written in 1967 is one of the few remaining ones.)

Andrea has been an enthusiastic worker for the Womens' Institute, being one of the charter members of the Highwood W.I. which was organized in the Meadowbank area. Her hands are seldom idle and have turned out countless crocheted tablecloths, bedspreads, doilies, etc. to the delight of family and friends.

They had three children, Sidney, Hansel and Carmen (Mrs. Arnold Roy).

Sidney and Ethel Husby

Sidney was born in Anacortis, Washington in 1912, coming to Canada with his parents when five years old. He received his schooling at Bingville and at Zephyr, a country school southwest of High River and at High River High school. In 1933 he graduated in mechanical drafting from the Southern Alberta Technical School. He farmed until joining the Royal Canadian Navy in 1941 where he was a Chief Petty Officer. Also in 1941 he married Ethel Starr, a native Albertan who had taught school at Springdale and at Meadowbank.

At the close of the war in 1945, Sid and Ethel rented the Floyd Derrick farm south of High River, (the old Fulton Thompson place) where they lived until 1958.

In 1960 Sid joined the staff of the Farm Credit Corporation and now lives in Edmonton.

Ethel has continued her teaching at various points through the years, including the Cayley school, and in 1966 is teaching at the School for the Mentally Retarded in Edmonton.

Sid and Ethel have three children; Michael, Judy and Starr.

Hansel (Bud) Husby

Bud was born in Everette, Washington and came to Canada with his parents at the age of two. He married Dorothy Braunsworth in 1936. From 1940 to 1944 he served with the Royal Canadian Navy as a Steward. Bud and Dorothy farmed the P. L. Sim farm, two miles west of Azure from 1945 to 1956 and is now a Federal grain inspector in Vancouver.

They have two children, Dorothy Ann and John.

Roy Brothers Orchestra

Our Orchestra originated by chance in the winter of 1929 at a house party in High River. We had been invited and requested to bring our music to assist in the evenings entertainment.

It so happened that a young man, a native of Sherbrooke, Quebec, and a nephew of the George Kinnears' was there with his cousin Ralph Kinnear who had taken special care to bring along his cousin's Trumpet.

Kenneth Goff proved to be a real dance Trumpeter. Not long after this meeting we were asked to play at a card party in the Odd Fellows Hall. We approached Ken as to whether he would be available and willing to help us out and he was all for it, resulting in the formation of Roy Bros. Orchestra with Vinton and Arnold Roy and Kenneth Goff being the Charter Members. From here it developed into a five piece Band as we added a drummer in the person of Frank Kuse of Turner Valley. This came about through the late Vern Shantz being contacted by the Manager of the Turner Valley Theatre to provide a Band for Wednesday nights in the theatre.

Later on we added a native of Okotoks, Ron Waldron who played the Saxaphone and violin.

During the life of the Band there were a number of other short term members, some of them being Ralph Sicotte, and Albert Lowan of High River.

The Band broke up in the winter of 1932 when Ken returned to Quebec and Frank Kuse had left Turner Valley.

Arnold Roy

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Brockway

In 1938 Marvin Brockway married Lois Litle from Granum. They moved to the Meadowbank district where they have lived ever since.

In 1959 Margaret, the oldest of their family of three, married Barrie Newby and they now live in Didsbury. They have three children, Allen, Kim and Cheryl.

Douglas married Anita McClelland of High River in 1965 and is living in Calgary.

Gordon is working at Alta Lake in B.C.

Lois Brockway

The dePaoli's

The dePaoli's were a large family in Italy, seventeen children – though only fifteen lived to maturity. They were raised on a farm of thirty acres near Venice. Over the years Cayley and district have become home to five of the De Paoli sons and their families – Angelo, Fiorovante (Faro), Romolo, Donato and Vittorio. Their stories were intertwined the first few years.

In 1912 Faro came to Canada working first in the mines at Michel, B.C. and then joined the extra gang on the C.P.R. In 1913 Angelo joined him on this work crew. Angelo still remembers his first day of work for the gang was sent to Stavely to clean up the awful mess after two trains had collided. That year Faro and Angelo and another brother in Italy bought a half section of land on the correction line west of Cayley in the Meadowbank school district – parts of sections 36 and 25-17-30-W4. Faro too went to farm it, keeping bachelor quarters in the homestead shack there. Angelo continued to work to help pay for the land. He worked between Golden and Fort Steele and in the coal mines at Michel B.C.

In 1922 Angelo returned to Italy and married Esther Bertoia. Four months later they took over Faro's house while he went to Italy to find Rachel – his bride. Their two older children, Lillian and Louis were born in San Lorenzo. When they returned in 1927 they lived for a short time on the farm now occuppied by Wat Jackson. They then made their home on a place further south along the correction line which Angelo had purchased from Milton Doty. This was in the Mosquito Creek School District and Lillian and Louis attended school there for two years. Several years later the families exchanged home sites and Angelo and Esther raised their family of two – Reno and Valli on this second farm, parts of Sec. 13-17-30-W4. In 1949 Angelo and Esther turned this farm home over to Reno and retired to Calgary, but the call of the land was too strong so they bought a farm at Aldersyde and lived there until retiring in 1952 to High River, where they still reside. They have continued to buy and sell land owning in succession one section west of Connemara, a half section south of High River and then part of the old High River Wheat and Cattle Co. west of Cayley. This last place Angelo and Reno purchased from Earl Herbig.

Reno married Dorothy Fautley of High River and they have five children, Janice, Lorne, Gail, Angelo and Lisa. Their home is still the Mosquito Creek farm.

Valli – Mrs. Pierre Merau of Prince George was a school teacher for eight years They have two children, Mark, and Theresa.

Faro and Rachel built up a fine home in the Meadowbank district. They had five children – Lillian and Louis born in Italy and Annie, Delbert and Delma in High River. Lillian married Jerry Sweet, Annie is Mrs. Bruce Veilleux and is living on a farm west of High River. They have three children, Linda, Larry and Judy. Louis married Betty Watson and ranch west of Longview, their two sons are Wade and Donald. Delbert married Barbara Humphrey of Gladys Ridge and they live on Faro's place in Meadowbank. They have no family.

Faro passed away in March 1954 and Delma, twin sister of Delbert, died in August 1944.

Donato dePaoli

He was born in San Lorenzo in 1898 and served in the first World War. In 1921 he married Amabile Quarin, also of San Lorenzo. In April of 1921 Donato immigrated to Canada and worked at Michel, B.C. for almost a year and then came to the farm owned by his brothers Faro and Angelo and stayed here for a period of two years while they went to Italy to get married. He left the farm and went to the coal mines at Nordegg than settled in Michel and was joined by his wife in September of 1923. Their children were born at Michel. Celeste (Checker) in 1924, Enso in 1928, Amelio in 1936.

They moved to their home at Cayley in March, 1943. W ½ of Sec. 8-17-28-W4. This was the Delehunte place.

Vittorio dePaoli

Vittorio (Victor) was born in San Lorenzo in 1915 and in February 1942 he married Ave Bertoia also of San Lorenzo. Their three sons were born there.

Victor arrived in Canada in July, 1950, five months later he purchased the farm from Marinus Paulson. His family joined him in April 1951. He farmed and bought and sold livestock there until December, 1965 when he bought SE5-18-29-W4 from Dr. Morley, the former Sleeman place. During the winter months prior to moving where they are now Victor worked in the mines in Michel and also worked for the C.P.R. in Cayley.

They had the distinct honor of having their three sons attend University at the same time. Joseph, born Nov. 15, 1942, graduated from the U. of A. at Edmonton in the Law faculty. He obtained his B.L.L. Degree in July, 1966. He is employed by the Industrial Development Bank in Calgary. Dino, born Dec. 15, 1943, received his B.A. in Education in May, 1965. He teaches at Foremost. Sergio, born May 3, 1945, received his B.A. in May 1966. He is still attending U. of A. Edmonton, aiming toward his Doctorate Degree.

The dePaoli's two daughters were born in High River, Linda on Feb. 11, 1957 and Bruna on Feb. 26, 1960.

Mrs. dePaoli's mother, Mrs. Maria Bertoia, joined them in 1953, and has resided with them since with the exception of five years when she returned to Italy.

Victor passed away June 22, 1967.

Romalo dePaoli

He arrived in the Meadowbank district in 1923 and worked for Angelo and Faro before going back to Michel, B.C., then to the Windsor-Detroit area and back to Nordegg. He returned to Michel where he worked for fourteen years in the mines.

He married Beatrice Quarin in High River in 1926. They were married by Father Bowlen. Their two children, Neli and Lino were born in Michel.

They moved back to the Meadowbank district and lived on the old Frank Shehan place north of the school for one summer and then bought the Philips place NW¼-4-18-29-W4, north of Beamers in 1936. They lived there until 1946 when they bought the Crawford Bros. place, SE of 28-17-29-W4. There they built a new home and have resided there since.

Their daughter Neli passed away in 1945 and Mr. dePaoli in 1955.

Lino dePaoli

Bruins History

In the fall of 1929 John Bruins, a young lad of sixteen, came to the Cayley district to seek work on a threshing outfit. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harm Bruins, pioneers of Alberta, homesteading near Medicine Hat in 1908. John threshed with Charles Gardner for two falls and returned in 1932 to work for John McConkey and also for George McVicar until 1935 when he returned to his home near Seven Persons to farm with one of his brothers.

He was married to Amelia Angle in 1936 whose parents had homesteaded in the Winnifred district in 1907. In 1937 John returned to the Cayley district and worked for Doc Walker for a time. I, his wife, joined him in November and we moved to the Roy Gillespie farm where we were employed until the fall of 1940. We moved to Mr. Archie Walker's ranch where my husband farmed and looked after Mr. Walker's purebred Galloway cattle. Archie lived in Salem, Oregon. We stayed on this ranch for three years. By this time three children had been born to us – John Jr., George and Aileen.

In the spring of 1944 John rented the farm land sixteen miles west of Cayley known as the "High River Wheat and Cattle Co." and moved his family to "the hills". There was 1000 acres of land to be farmed so he started buying machinery. While on this farm, which we rented for five years, two more daughters were born – Louise and Donna.

In 1947 we purchased a quarter section west of Cayley known as the Andy Gillespie homestead from Mrs. Helen Gillespie. As this place had been vacant many years, all the buildings had to be replaced. We bought a house at Longview and had Doug Stephenson move it to the farm, and in November, 1948 we moved on to our own land. We remodelled the house and built two barns, in fact, as far as buildings are concerned, it has been a "Do-it-yourself" project. For the past ten years we ran a dairy business, but as John's heatlh was failing, we sold the cows in 1965.

Another son was born to us in 1951 giving us a family of six.

John Jr. started school at Springdale school but completed school in Cayley. He took a years correspondence in Electronic Communications from the Radio College of Canada; then completed the course at Toronto, where he received his engineer's papers in Electronics. He has been employed since 1960 as engineer of Radio Station CJDV, Drumheller. He married Joan Kline of Drumheller in 1965.

George also started school at Springdale, finishing at Cayley. He then went to Naramata, B.C. for a term at the Christian Leadership Training School. He lives at home, farming a half section of rented land. George is active in church work, is a member of the Church Session, and teaches Sunday School.

Aileen received her R.N. after training at the Gault School of Nursing in Lethbridge. She married Kenneth Lord in 1965 and is now nursing in the General Hospital at Ponoka.

Louise is in her 2nd year of training at the Foothills Hospital, Calgary. Donna is also in Calgary taking her first year of Education at the University. Lloyd, our youngest, is going to school in Cayley.

We have all been active in the Cayley Church. John is on the Board of Stewards and was chairman of this board for a number of years. I am on the Church Session and teach Sunday School.

Amelia Bruins

Fosk School

Fosk School was built about 1907. It was to be the Forks School and through an error made when it was registered it became Fosk.

From records found of those days it was built by Sanders Brothers at somewhere in the neighborhood of One Hundred Dollars labor.

Miss M.H. Seaman was the first teacher, her salary being Sixty Dollars per month. They held school from spring until fall, with the winter months off. Among those who attended in the early years were; Glen Beagle, Edna and May Bethards, Opal Still, Elmer McKethen, Mary and Nellie Chapman.

A. Hitchener

Arthur Shakerley

Arthur Shakerley came from England about 1898. He worked on ranches and spent some time with Walter Hansen. He fell in love with the surrounding country and wanted to homestead the quarter south of Walter Hansen. However, Walter objected to him overlooking his land, so Arthur went over the hill to the south and homesteaded the next quarter.

His sister came out in 1910 to keep house for him. She was indeed a colorful character. She dressed in mid-Victorian fashion, and certainly had no time for anyone more scantilly dressed. One of the ranchers rode in on horseback to call on her one afternoon, accompanied by his daughter in riding breeches. Miss Shakerley asked them to wait at the door and returned with two voluminous aprons, which she with no hesitancy, tied on the girl – one on the front and one on the back.

Echo Glen Ranch

Ted Hill homesteaded the present Echo Glen Ranch in the early 1900's. W.J. Ikin purchased it from Hill and lived there several years. The original log house built by Hill stood at the ranch until the late 50's when it was demolished.

Fulton Thompson was the next owner. He and his wife Florence lived in High River for the first years and Fult's nephew George lived on the ranch for some time, also Jack Tinney. They later moved to the ranch, after selling his farm (the Langford place and now Reg. Evans). They lived there until 1945 when he sold and retired in Calgary, where Mrs. Thompson still lives. Fulton passed away in 1948.

A family from England, Henry and Mary Wickson, their son John and his wife Pamela, and their daughter Margaret, were the next owners of Echo Glen. They were there for a number of years, where John and Pam's three daughters were born. Margaret married L. Glover. They sold the ranch to Horsfield and Husby and moved to the "Old Skov" property on the river road. From there they moved to Victoria where they are residing now.

Keith and Del Horsfield had five children – Brian, Lynne, Janet, Vicki and Holly.

Sid and Ethel Husby had three children – Michael, Judy and Starr.

They sold the ranch to Gordon MacKay and moved away, Horsfield's to California and Husby's to Edmonton.

Roy and Jean Stewart manage the ranch.

Elza Creel Sanders Family

Mr. Sanders was born at Olman, Illinois in 1876 and married Alice Belle Settle at Irving in 1897. They migrated to North Dakota and homesteaded at Minot and then on to Alberta in November, 1902. They homesteaded the N.W. ¼-24-17-2-W5. His father, J.P. Sanders homesteaded the N.W. ¼-25-17-2-W5. His brother Will homesteaded S.E. ¼-14-17-2-W5. He sold this to the Bar U (George Lane) and the house was moved to the Bar U farm and is the main part of Harry Hays present ranch house. His brother Fred Sanders stayed at Fargo, N. Dakota.

Elza Sanders worked at carpentering in and around High River. He leased his homestead to Chester Beagle around 1907 and built a store and Post Office at Baronet, two miles west of Meadowbank hall. He also had a small grist mill. He returned to his homestead around 1910 and remained there until his death in 1934. Mr. Sanders was very active in community affairs and was Secretary-Treasurer of Fosk and Springdale school districts for a number of years. Mrs. Sanders passed away in 1957.

There were three children in the family; Manila (Mrs. H.A. Root) Manning, Alberta, Merle at the Medicine Tree Manor in High River and Creel in Cayley.

Elza had four sisters; Mattie's husband, Mark Lounsberry carried the mail from High River to Baronet and Pekisko. Bertha married Wm. Smith who had a blacksmith shop in High River. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Barnstable (Hattie) went to Estevan, Saskatchewan, and Lizzie and Ed. Duke moved to Bellingham, Washington.

Creel Sanders

Walter Leonard Fitzherbert

Mr. Fitzherbert was born May 20, 1886, at Overton, Hampshire, England and worked as a Printer's helper for a short time in England before coming to Canada in the spring of 1902.

He worked for W.G. Hanson, Brown and Bedingfield (now E.P. Ranch), O.H. Ranch (then owned by W. Ings), the Round T, as well as other ranches. He homesteaded in 1904 next to his brothers Hal and Lionel on Coal Creek.

In 1930 he was married to Annie Kersely of Overton, Hampshire, England at St. Aidens Church at Pekisko. This was the first wedding in that church. They had two children, Nita (Mrs. W.M. Jarvie) Lethbridge, and John, living on his original homestead west of High River.

Mr. Fitzherbert is now living in Medicine Tree Manor in High River.

John Fitzherbert

Emma Fantam Fitzherbert

Mrs. Fitzherbert came to Canada from Overton, Hampshire, England in the fall of 1907 to live with her son, Len. She was known to all her friends as Granny Fitzherbert. She passed away in 1939.

Also coming at this time were William Horne Fitzherbert (Will) who later went to B.C. to live; Anthony (Toni) who worked in the drug store in High River and was killed in World War 1 in 1915, and Kathleen, now Mrs. Sam Smith.

M. A. Beagle and Chester Beagle Families

Chester, his brother Claude and parents Mr. and Mrs. M.A. Beagle came from Pendleton, Oregon in 1903 to homestead about five miles east of the Bar U, on land adjoining what was later the Pekisko Store property. There were also two younger children, Delle and Glenn and a daughter was born on the homestead. They farmed and raised horses for sale to mostly eastern buyers. They built a large barn and house and their home became a popular overnight stopping place for those living further out. Transportation was entirely by horse power then.

The Beagles were instrumental in the building of a little Methodist Church at a small place called Baronet along the Bar U trail (on land that later became the property of Elof Nelson). Baronet consisted of a grocery store, the storekeeper's house and post-office as well as the church.

In 1908 Chester Beagle married Eva Barnes of the Meadowbank district and and they lived across the road, west of the Senior Beagle's home.

In 1911 Mr. M.A. Beagle sold his farm to A.A. Ballachey and moved to Oregon, later to California.

In 1913, Chester and Eva and daughter Helen also sold their farm and moved to Sydney, B.C. but returned to Cayley district in 1918 where they farmed for the next twenty one years on the Ed Kitchen place east of town.

There were three children, Helen, Gordon and Dale. Helen and Gordon received their education in Nanton. In 1939 the Beagles moved to the Gladys Ridge District where Dale attended school.

In 1935 Helen married Lyle Snodgrass of High River who operated the Snodgrass Funeral Home. Lyle passed away in 1960 and Helen and her two sons operate the business. In 1941 Gordon married Rita Gilchrist of Cayley. After farming at Gladys Ridge for many years, they now reside in Wetaskiwin where Rita teaches school and Gordon is employed by the Federal Farm Loan Corporation. In 1956 Dale married Marlene Riske, they live in Calgary where Dale is a technician in a Television station.

Chester passed away in 1946. Eva lives in High River.

Eva Beagle

Bethard Brothers

Five Bethard brothers came from Oklahoma to Canada in 1903 to homestead. They landed west of High River and each proved up on a quarter. They later bought adjoining land, part of this being the Kentucky Ranch. Four of the brothers were married – Jim, whose young wife died suddenly, Joe, his wife and son, George and wife and Charlie, his wife and two daughters, Edna (McKethen) and May (Faul). Ernest remained a bachelor all his life.

They shipped a large herd of stock cows, horses, machinery and household articles to High River. The first log house was built on the Jim Bethard homestead (and was still standing and in use on the Kentucky Ranch until very recently). The women all lived here until the brothers got the next house built – before long they were all cozy in their own homes.

They sold their land to Ellison Capers about 1920 and they all returned to Oklahoma for a short time. Jim, Charlie and Ernest returned and Jim and Charlie operated the High River Trading Co. for three years. They sold their business

and went back to Oklahoma again. Charlie and his family returned to the Meadowbank district where he lived until poor health forced him to retire to High River. After several years he and his wife Cora moved to Washington where he passed away. Mrs. Bethards came back to this district where she lived the remainder of her life.

McKethen Family

I, Elmer McKethen, came from Bozman, Montana as a young boy in 1903. My father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Ed McKethen came to the Fosk district and claimed up on a homestead. My father's cousins, the Bethard Brothers, had come to Canada earlier and made their home in the Fosk district.

In 1923 Charlie and Jim Bethards bought a section of land in the Meadowbank district formerly owned by Mr. McKeen. My wife, the former Edna Bethards, and I rented this farm and moved there. I bought the quarter section belonging to Sam Tritton in 1928 and bought the land I was renting in 1944. Our closest neighbours were Mr. and Mrs. George Willard. Bill and Karl Reihs now own this farm.

The depression years were hard, but taught us many things. People were more concerned with one another in those days. Farming was hard work with horses, long hours and not much pay for our produce. I used to go to Turner Valley and buy gas in a barrel which lasted for two months and was cheap. We were only hailed out one year in all our farming years.

One of the things I remember was playing softball on the Championship team. Meadowbank went to Brant to the tournament and to the surprise of everyone there we ran out on the field with the only ball sweaters in the country. They were maroon with white letters on them. I think that if none of us could have thrown a ball, we would have won the tournament anyway. Those sweaters were real morale builders and the other team just gave up I think. I remember a few who were with me that day; Vint and Arnold Roy, Clarence Fredell, John Fix. Oh yes – we did win the cup that day!

I served on the school board and the first hall board. I was the one that turned the first sod for the basement of the hall. My wife belonged to the Meadowbank Ladies Club also the Womens Institute. We boarded some of the school teachers. As a family we enjoyed all the activities of the district.

Because of ill health I was forced to retire from the farm at the age of forty three. I rented my farm to Marvin Paulson for five years. In 1954 my youngest daughter and family, Dick and Gwenne Van Winkle, moved to the farm, and are renting it.

Edna and I moved to High River and lived there until March 18, 1965 when my wife passed away. I am now living in Calgary. My eldest daughter and family, Norma and Frank Baker, live in Calgary.

Elmer McKethen

Charlie McKethen

My dad and mother, Charles and Lena McKethen, were among the first early settlers to come to this area to homestead. My dads first trip was made in the early spring of 1904 by covered wagon from Bozeman, Montana. He filed on his homestead and returned to Montana for the winter. In the spring he started out again with his wagon loaded with supplies but had the misfortune to have one of

his horses struck dead with lightning at Coutts. He mounted the remaining and and rode to his homestead site, and borrowed a horse from his neighbors, the Bethard Bros. He returned to "the line" to pick up his wagon and finished his second trip to Alberta. He returned to Bozeman once more and the next spring he started out on his final wagon trip to Alberta, accompanied by his wife and son Elmer.

They built a small house and dug a well but still needed a barn and chicken house, so they took their team and camping outfit and went to the mountains. My dad cut logs and Mother and Elmer "snaked" them out with a horse to a point where they could be loaded. By fall they had enough logs to build their barn and chicken house. I must mention that my dad had only one arm, he had lost his other arm in a saw mill accident in Montana.

Their first house was destroyed by fire, but through the kindness and help of their neighbors, especially a dear old gentleman, C.A. Plastow, (who was a carpenter) they soon had a new house.

They lived here until 1918 when they moved to the farm, earlier homesteaded by J.P. Sanders. It was here that I was born and spent my child-hood. They moved to the Lock Sloy place in 1936 where they lived until their death.

My husband Dan and I have lived here since 1943, and raised our five children, Keith, Ronald, Jim, Michael and Brenda.

Alberta Hitchner

Thomas A. McMaster

Mr. McMaster came to this country in 1904 from Scotland. He broke horses for a man named Nicholls, and worked on ranches in the area. In 1910 he homesteaded land and that year he went to Kelowna to break horses for a Mr. Dart.

He married Maude Fitzherbert in 1911 and they returned from Kelowna in 1913. He worked for Herb Miller at the Bar U for some time before settling down on his homestead. His wife passed away in 1933.

In 1938 he married Rhoda Fitzherbert. Rhoda came out from England in 1930 accompanied by a friend and returned to England after four months. Her friend, Nancy remained here and married Rhoda's brother, Len.

In 1936 Rhoda returned to this district this time to stay and be married. She and "Mac" lived the next 21 years on their ranch in the foothills. They retired to High River in 1959 where Rhoda still resides. "Mac" passed away in 1960.

A. Hitchener

W. R. Davis Family

Mr. W.R. Davis was born in Missouri. He served with the army in the Phillipines where he met Mrs. W.R. Davis (Marie Meyer) whom at the time was a nurse-governess for Capt. McQuestion and family there. They returned to the States where Mr. Davis was discharged from the army in 1901. Mr. Davis then drove horses up to this district and sold them. He returned to Washington where he was married in 1904.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis came to the Pekisko area in 1904 and filed for his homestead on NW ¼ Section 18. Mrs. Davis was the first trained nurse in this district and despite difficult road conditions was always of assistance to friends and neighbors in the pioneer district when assistance was required. Whenever the

doctor was delayed she was there and brought many children into the world without the Doctor's assistance.

Their son Roy started school in High River in 1914. The Fosk school was moved down by Pekisko Creek where he went to Grade eight. Mrs. Davis then moved to High River where he took Grade nine. In 1924 and 1925 Roy took an Agricultural Course at Claresholm. His memory of school is that he always hoped it would be burned down and he always looked hopefully as he got to the hill at Fosk.

The closest neighbors were about one mile – Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Anderson.

Mr. W.R. Davis was one of the first directors on the Fosk-Springdale School Board. Mrs. Davis was one of the first Trustees on the School Board.

The names of their children are: Elda, Roy, Helen and Vera. Elda Robinson is teaching at Okotoks; Roy is farming on the homestead; Helen Wallershiem is living in Milk River and Vera Thorsten is nursing in Milk River.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Davis' family are Arnold (Buster), Bill, Margurete, Barbara (Mrs. Eldon Lyall) and Hazel. Arnold and Bill are farming at present.

Roy Davis

Sam Mace

Sam Mace came from Colorado to High River in 1903, where he homesteaded. He brought seventeen head of registered Hereford cattle with him and from this built up a sizable herd. He also brought with him his invention of the pushpole for stacking hay. He had put up 1400 tons with it in one season in Colorado.

The year of 1903 was very wet, according to Mr. Mace's record. He had told of ploughing and the water running along the furrow behind him.

He was in partnership with his brother-in-law for about two years and then continued on his own until 1932 when Hughes Brothers purchased it. He lived in Okotoks and then in Calgary until the time of his death.

The Hughes Brothers, Jim and Tom, came from England. Their sister Nancy (Mrs. Gilbert Nelson) joined them in 1931 and their Mother in 1936. Tom and his family moved to the Plaston place in 1944 and in 1957 moved to High River. Jim and his family remained there until 1953 when they moved to the Walter Hansen place where they now reside.

Charlie Chapman

Charles Chapman was born in Welland County, Ontario, not far from Niagara Falls in 1857. He came to Alberta in 1803 from Glenwood Springs, Colorado and homesteaded in the Fosk district in 1905. He broke land for many of the early settlers with a walking plow. He cut and hauled logs to build houses, barns and corrals. In 1908 he married Eva May Fitzherbert who had come out from England in 1906 to keep house for her brothers. They went in for mixed farming, horses, cattle and a lot of pigs and chickens. Mrs. Chapman was very proud of her butter and had her own butter paper printed with "Lily Crest Ranch Dairy Butter" and her name on it. She used to hitch a horse to the stone-boat and take the children to visit her mother or the neighbors. She died in 1916.

Mr. Chapman loved to tell stories or argue. He brought a race mare and colt from Glenwood Springs with him and loved a horse race. He also played polo and fished in the early years.

During the first world war he ground wheat to make flour for himself and the neighbors. It was hand-sifted and the fine was used to make bread or cookies and the coarse was boiled for porridge.

In 1927 he sold out to George Wambeke and went to Pincher Creek where he died in 1940. Two daughters, Mrs. Leo Heywood (Mary) of High River and Mrs. D. Graham (Nelly) of Longview and one son, Gerard of Fort William, Ontario, survive.

Sam Smith

Sam Smith had a ranch in the early days near the Joe Bews ranch. He worked on several ranches in the area. Later he got the job of Fish and Game Warden. He rode horseback for many years, and was a familiar figure along the creeks and rivers. Later he drove by car and continued for many years as Game Warden. He retired in the early Forties and moved to High River.

He married Kathleen Fitzherbert in 1911. They have one daughter, Kathleen, married and living in the U.S.A.

The house which they moved into in High River was the former Phil Weinard house. Mrs. Smith passed away a few years ago and Sam still lives in High River.

Jim and Agnes Chronister

I was born August 3, 1884 in Highwood, Montana. My father was one of the first R.C.M.P. in the West. My husband, Jim, was born August 1, 1879 at Kanna, Kansas. We were married in Stockett, Montana, March 16, 1905 and went to live in Butte, Montana, where our son, Cecil, was born May 11, 1906.

We came to Canada in October 1906, and lived at McLeod (Fort Macleod) until we moved to High River in 1907. My husband was employed at the Partan Coal Mine at Fosk.

We heard of a homestead that had been relinquished, and he went to Calgary in order to file on this homestead, and to do this he sat on the steps of the Land Registry Office a day and a night. We lived on this homestead and proved up on it August 7, 1912.

Our daughter Rose, was born March 25, 1918 at High River, Alberta. We lived on the homestead until 1945, when we sold it to James Troute, and we moved to Edmonton, Alberta, where I still live.

Agnes Chronister (nee Perault)

A. J. Dayment

A.J. Dayment and his son, Alfred, came to Canada and the Fosk district from England in 1913. His wife and younger son Richard, and daughter Elizabeth followed in 1920.

Mr. Dayment was hired to show Shire horses at the Calgary Spring Horse Show. He continued on as manager for Miss Shakerley until her death in 1939. He rented the land for the next five years until it was purchased by Jim Hughes in 1944.

His two sons, Alfred and Dick, owned land and lived here for many years Dick retired to High River in 1951 and later to Salt Spring Island, B.C.

Dick and his wife Ellen (Toots) had two children, Joseph and Margaret. Joe and his family reside on their farm, while Joe operates a garage in Longview. Joe married Rose Marie Stephenson.

Dick was well known in the Cayley district as one of the "Pekisko Kids".

Alfred lived on his ranch until the time of his death which occurred in 1966. He never married.

Elizabeth married James Bannister of Hartell, where they farmed for many years. She passed away some years ago.

Loch Sloy

Loch Sloy was the first store and Post Office in the Fosk area. It was a small one-roomed building with living quarters above (the building still stands on the Marvin Miller property). It was owned and operated by Hugh MacFarlane and his wife from 1907 to 1915. In 1912 they built a spacious big building for their business. In 1915 he sold to Harry Baines and went overseas. Baines operated it until 1919 when he moved his business to its present site (South Fork Trading Post).

When this spacious building was left vacant it became a community meeting place, the large store room turned into a dance hall. People came from miles around to enjoy dances, concerts, etc. here. A few years later C.E. McKethen bought it. His daughter and son-in-law, Alberta and Dan Hitchner have lived there since 1943.

Pekisko (South Fork Trading Post)

In 1919 Harry Baines built a log house and store on the Mitchell homestead and moved his store and Post Office from Loch Sloy to the present site of Pekisko store. The carpenter was E.C. Sanders and Joe Powers and Phil Weinard did the log work.

This became a popular meeting place for the Stoney Indians who found true friend in the Baines, especially Mrs. Baines. She always had time to hear their problems and to help wherever she could. She became interested in their beaded work through this friendly association, and through the years she built up a remarkable collection of Indian Crafts.

They had two sons, Harry and Alfred. After Harry Baines Sr. died in 1924 his brother William came west from Sask. to help the family run the store. Mrs. Baines passed away in 1946 and the store was operated by Alfred and his wife Mabel (Jackson) until 1957 when they moved to High River.

Harry married Violet Jackson and operated a blacksmith shop in High River. They are now living in Calgary.

Pekisko, Billy Henry told Mrs. D. Pence, the name given to the tributary of the Highwood by Fred Stimson, is Spanish, meaning rolling hills.

Alberta Hitchner

Rigg

Rigg was sent out from England to Saskatchewan to be taught farming. He didn't like Saskatchewan so headed west and landed here in 1910. He bought land from the LeTourneau Bros. and that part of Jim Hughes place still goes by the name of the "Rigg place". There are also a few of the original buildings still standing.

Rigg went overseas and died in action in 1918.

Royal

Royal came to Canada in 1914. He came to visit Riggs and liked the country so he bought land from Alec Weir, adjoining the Rigg place.

This in later years was purchased by Ted and Janet Schintz where they presently live. They are both well known for their paintings and Janet for her chilrens stories.

J. D. Still

John D. Still came from Blackfoot, Idaho to High River on July 1, 1904, by train with his wife Leona and four daughters; Eva, Minola, Kate and Opal. He homesteaded eighteen miles south-west of High River and had brought with him a good line of equipment, five wagons, milk cows, horses and machinery. The three youngest girls went to school in High River for two years.

J.D. Still's (Machine) – High River, Alta.

Though the land was surveyed, there were no fences. It was open prairie with tall grass and Bar U cattle roaming over it.

J.D. Still acquired a great deal of land, giving each of his daughters a farm. Besides his daughter Opal, he has numerous grandchildren living in High River and Cayley district.

Eva married Ralph Westholm in 1906; family of three, Thelma, Hazel and Robert, all living in the United States. Eva died in 1962. Kate married Buford Alwood in 1910, family of three, Dewane and Clifford in B.C. and Lee in Calgary. Kate died in 1934. Opal married Elof Nelson in 1916, family of seven, John, Dorothy (Mrs. Chancey Howe), A.W. (Swede), Isabelle (Mrs. Marcus Polinkas) in

High River, Eileen (Mrs. J. Moncrieff) of Devon, Marguerite (Mrs. B. Franklin) in Wainright and Ralph on the home place. Minola married Henry Nelson (brother of Elof) in 1918. They had a family of four, Leona (Mrs. Miles Houlden), Cayley, Gerald and Mildred of Edmonton and Irene (Mrs. M. Dierkhissing) of Valleyview. Minola died in 1956, Henry in 1962.

Leona Houlden

Alec Weir

Alec Weir had a small Trading Post where the Schintz now live. He traded furs, etc. for groceries to the Indians. The Indian trail came from Morley and crossed the Highwood. The trail goes on south past the Rigg place and north to cross the Sheep Creek at Turner Valley.

M. A. Miller Ranch

Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Pruitt came from England in 1906 to homestead in this area. They were here a very short time and returned to England.

Agrippa and Nicholas Vine purchased the land from Pruitt and lived there for twenty years. They had one adopted son, Harry.

Harry went overseas at the outbreak of war, and returned with a Dutch bride. They have two daughters and live at Sundre, Alberta.

Harold and Ellis Carkner spent a good many years with the Vine family. Harold and his wife Clara (Busse) later farmed there for a short while. Harold passed away in 1940.

Gilbert and Nancy (Hughes) Nelson bought the ranch from Vine in 1943 and lived there ten years. They had three children, Diana, Jill and Terry. Gilbert served as councillor for most of these years. They sold out and went to Victoria, B.C.

Marvin and Alice Miller bought the ranch and with their daughter Pat, moved there in 1953. Pat was later married to Chuck Brearley. They have another daughter Joyce (Mrs. Mike Dougherty).

Marvin is a councillor for Foothills M.D., a position he has held for the past thirteen years. Note: Marvin became Reeve of the M.D. in 1967.

McLean Ranch

This was the homestead of M.A. Beagle and was later owned by A.A. Ballachey of High River. It was run for years by George Camp, his wife Sadie (Kinghorn) and their three children, Tom, Isabell and Jack.

It was sold about 1942 to Rex McLean. He, his wife Daisey and son Roy came from Woodstock, N.B. They had three other children born here, Shirley (McKillop), Lorna and Donald.

Rex and family moved to High River to send the children to High School. Ray later married Lenore Bews and they have two sons, Michael and Timothy. Rex continued his interest at the ranch until his untimely death in 1967.

Ray, Lenore and family live on the home ranch.

Senator Harry Hays, owner of Hays Ranches, previously part of the old Bar U Ranch.

The D. C. Burke Family

Denis Charles Burke, born in Ballinahone, Armagh, Ireland, was a member of the NWMP from 1896 to 1901. His homestead was three miles east of Big Hill School, now John Wambeke's, and he also acquired land along the river and built a home. In later years this place was known as Troute's, and is a favorite picnic spot on the Highwood. In 1905 Denis married Meriel Kate Griffin of Altavilla, Rathkeale, County Limerick, Ireland.

Our family moved to Pekisko Creek in 1911, after the disasterous forest fire of 1910, buying the Francis homestead. The fire had destroyed the sawmill on Bear Creek where Francis had been employed as a book-keeper, but had missed his buildings. The McConnel place, previously damaged by fire, was completely destroyed. The hills and mountains were practically denuded and it was not until the 1930s that new growth became noticeable, and of course is now abundant again.

One of the favorite beauty spots on Pekisko is called McConnel Falls. This became part of the Cameron Ranch owned by two bachelors – our nearest neighbors. Unfortunately the elder brother had been crossed-up in love and was a confirmed woman-hater, even to the extent of making me, at an early age, remain out on my horse while my brother went in! However, the younger brother's kindness more than compensated.

Thorpe and Cartwright were our next neighbors, whose tradition of hospitality is still carried on by Jim and Mary Cartwright. I can well remember the happy summer visits with Mrs. Cartwright. Before her arrival Mother went nearly a year without seeing a white woman. We never lacked for men coming through and always stopping for a meal or overnight – forestry personnel, hunters, prospectors forever looking for the elusive "Lemon Mine", and in the winter the farmers for great loads of fire-killed logs. So many came from Meadowbank and Cayley. In the summer they would return with their families to camp and fish, and how excited we would be to see children arriving in buggies and wagons. They really caused amazement when they came in the first Model "T's". Some of the families still coming to the ranch are Beatons, Shiers, Kellers, Coueys, Chaffees and Tiffins.

When Meriel was eight and Michael six our yearly exodus to school in High River began. Mother dreaded June because she said we all became as caged animals waiting to be turned loose once again on our ponies.

Daddy became Sherriff for a number of years and I can still recall a memorable trip to Cayley in the old Model T when we wandered off the road through the fields to dodge mud-holes.

Through the years Government Surveys were done, mostly of a geophysical

nature. In 1912 a camp was established at McConnel Falls and the surrounding hills and mountains were surveyed. So it was that we were given the honor of having a mountain named Mount Burke – just north of Mount Sentinel which had been a landmark since the first settlers arrived.

If we could get around the deadfall left by the fire, we were free to roam at will, and many the pails of berries we brought home. These and fish in abundance meant we never missed the corner store.

We had a happy association with the Indians too. The Dixons, Left Hands, Daniels, Bearspaws, and other families came every year to cut and cord our firewood. Chief David Bearspaw used to come during the early years, and he was a very fine man. When I was quite small and became lost following after my father, it was Jonas Lefthand who found me.

When a group of Indian women and children came up to pick berries, Michael who was just a little fellow, persuaded Mother to let him go with them. He was late getting back and Mother was worried, but he arrived, safe, and warm too – wearing an Indian sweater and with a kerchief tied over his head!

In the early 1920's the Forestry built a cabin two miles south on Pekisko, and the late Freddy Nash was our first ranger. His English war-bride was amazing in her adaptability, spending many long days alone while Freddy was off in the mountains – or getting on her horse and taking off to someone in distress. Until the cabin was ready she lived in one of the Bar U cabins.

Two or three times a year we drove down with Daddy for the mail at the Bar U, as Mr. Lane's book-keeper was the Post Master. Sometimes we had tea with Mrs. Lane. How delicious the cocoa used to be! Sometimes we would have a holiday and go on to Mount Sentinel ranch for a visit at the Gardner's hospitable home. Also there were happy visits at Mr. and Mrs. Bedingfield's (now the E.P.), whose daughter is now Mrs. Dick Gardner.

One thing I was conscious of all my childhood was the number of cattle shipped through Cayley. I can remember one day in the late 20's when there seemed to be literally thousands of cattle. At an early age my brother Michael used to help move cattle for the Riley's, 7U and Bar U.

The Burke family now consists of Meriel (Mrs. H. Hayden, Longview), Michael (deceased April 19, 1966), Geraldine (Mrs. N. Boatness, Bear Canyon, Alberta), Brian (Vancouver), Nora (Mrs. L.B. MacLean, Edmonton), Frank (Calgary), Nancy (Mrs. J.R.C. Cartwright, Calgary), Olive (Mrs. D. Rogers, Calgary). The old Pekisko home still belongs to the family, being shared by Brian and Frank and their families.

E P Ranch

The EP Ranch (EP for Edward Prince) has been claimed by both Calgary and High River, but actually Cayley is the closest point.

When Edward, then Prince of Wales, came to Canada in 1919 he spent several days at the Bar U Ranch. He was so fascinated by the foothills country that when he learned the neighboring Bedingfield Ranch was for sale he made immediate arrangements for its purchase. Professor Carlyle of Calgary was engaged as Ranch manager.

Registered cattle from England unloaded at Cayley for the Prince of Wales. Mr. Ludke of Midland Pacific Grain and Wm. Brewster.

The cattle barn on the Prince of Wales Ranch.

In 1928 Edward and his brother Prince George visited the ranch incognito and spent a week or more holidaying there. In later years, as the Duke of Windsor, he and the Duchess spent holidays at the ranch.

The EP was not operated along the usual practical lines of the other foothill ranches. Rather than make a profit for himself, it was the intention of the Prince to improve the breeding stock of the country, and toward that end he imported valuable bulls and stallions. Purebred Short-horn cattle, Clydesdale horses and Dartmoor ponies were raised and widely exhibited at stock fairs throughout Canada and the States. A Thoroughbred racing stallion, Will Somers, owned by the E.P. sired colts which won outstanding success on the racing circuits.

Bedingfield ranch near Pekisko.
The Bedingfield Ranch was bought in 1919 by Edward Prince of Wales and became known as the E.P. Ranch.

During the last five years of Royal ownership the management was turned over to the EP Ranching Company and a profit-making type of operation under-taken. Imported English Saddle Hogs and Landrace pigs were raised in large numbers. The hog-raising operation was later moved to the Aldersyde district.

In 1962 the ranch was sold to Jim Cartwright, owner of the neighboring D Ranch.

Frank Swan

I came to the Pekisko district in 1908 to stay with Walter Hansen for a year. The next year I worked for R.W. Bróderick and Gus Limoges herding horses in the Buffalo Hills and Snake Valley and then spent the next three years with Mr. Hansen. I spent the winter of '13-14 in England and returned here to start on my own in 1914.

In January, 1921 I married Marjorie Wolley-Dod, second daughter of Lt. Col. A.E. Wolley-Dod of Calgary. We raised three children; Diana Vaillant who has four girls, Reginald with one daughter and three sons and Isobel with three girls and four sons.

In 1960 we moved to Turner Valley and have a house on the farm belonging to Isabel and her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hughes bought our old place.

Frank Swan

Pekisko Ranger Station and Cameron Lookout

Pekisko Ranger Station was opened in the early 1920's as a sub-station to Mount Sentinel Ranger Station on the Highwood, and as headquarters for the Assistant Ranger. Freddie Nash was the first Ranger in charge. Other Rangers have been Dunc Fraser, Ted Creed, Ben Gowan, Gordon Davis, Dick Mackie, Elliott and Hal Caton. The Station has been closed for some years and the area is now patrolled from the main Ranger Station.

In 1929 Cameron Lookout was established on the top of Mount Burke which rose just to the west of the Ranger Station. At an altitude of 8340 feet it was then the highest lookout in western Canada. It was necessary to travel around to the west side of the mountain to gain access to the top, a distance of approximately eleven miles in all.

Materials for the lookout cabin were transported three miles up the mountain by pack-horse. Long timbers and lumber for the frame building, which was a mile above timber level, were carried by tying two pack horses head to tail and straping the lumber to their sides. The framework of the cabin was bolted to iron set in cement to withstand the fierce winds. Also cables from the eaves were connected to "dead men" (anchors) set in cement. So strong were the winds at times that it was impossible to stand outside the cabin. The lookout was constructed with windows all around so that the entire area could be scanned for incipient forest fires. The windows were equipped with wooden shutters on the outside to close during heavy wind storms to keep rocks from blowing through the glass.

To protect the cabin from the fierce lightning storms that raged around the top of the mountain, steel cables equipped with insulators to keep them from touching the wood, ran from a post at the top, down each corner, around the eaves and around the base of the cabin, and were all connected to a main cable running a mile down the mountain to be grounded in wet earth.

A lightning storm viewed from the Lookout is a most magnificent display, terrifying to some, beautiful to others. The surrounding mountains and the canyons below are lit up with each flash like daylight. When a charge strikes close

– as many do – the thunder is deafening. The cabin is safe, but one precaution must be taken. The telephone line connecting the Lookout with the Forestry Stations must be disconnected.

One new fellow, who admitted he was afraid of lightning before going up, forgot to disconnect the phone. A charge of lightening, entering through the phone line, exploded the bed, where he often sat, into little pieces, – crossed above his feet as he lay on another bunk, broke a hole in a window and went charging on to ground. The Lookout Man burst out the door and got to the bottom of the mountain almost as fast as the lightning!

The first man on Cameron Lookout was Louis Zimmerman.

The Diamond Trail

Down the east side of Lost Creek the Diamond Trail may be followed to Cataract Creek, up Cataract about two miles north to the Highwood, and on to the junction of Mist and Storm, up Storm Creek and over the Highwood Pass to Pocaterra Creek in the Kananaskis area.

It is a very old but well established trail carefully blazed with a big Diamond. The blaze was cut through the bark with a knife, not axed off as most blazes are, so that it has never scarred and is still distinct, although as the trees have grown the blaze marks are much higher now than when originally cut. Trees more than thirty feet high have grown up right in the trail.

Neither Indians nor old timers know the origin of the Diamond Trail, but some have a theory that the Spanish traders who came up through the mountains at a very early period may have cleared it. The route was carefully chosen for gradual grades showing that it was not made for a casual pass-through, but for permanent use.

The trail was discovered first, in August 1930 by Gordon Davis of the Pekisko Ranger Station, and Ted Creed, another Ranger.

Near the trail, just beyond the junction of Cataract and Lost Creek, Davis found a very old cabin – although not as old as the trail. It was entirely surrounded by heavy timber. The cabin was of log, built without nails. There was a fireplace in one corner, a heavy door, but no windows, a section of a big tree with the heart removed, was used to fashion a comfortable arm-chair. There were moose horns on the wall, which was somewhat extraordinary as there were no moose in the area before the early 1930's. Old rain-slickers shredded with age and the remains of old riding boots were within the cabin. There was a square four-gallon oil-can, very old, but with still readable lettering PRAIRIE CITY OIL-KANSAS CITY. Empty 44 shells littered the floor. A stump about fifteen yards outside the cabin, which had been used for target practise, was loaded with lead.

There have been many conjectures over the use and past history of the cabin which is far beyond summer cattle range. Some believe it may have been used by horse-rustlers.

Gordon Davis restored the cabin and used it for his trapping headquarters for nine winters. It was burned down in recent years, but the old arm-chair was rescued and is in possession of one of the ranchers of this area.

Springdale School No 1687

Taken in front of Springdale School. Back row L to R: Mrs. Geo Camp, Mrs. Harold Robinson, Mrs. Clarence Fredell. Front row L to R: Mrs. Brackley, Mrs. Robinson, Miss Lena Leho, Mrs. Henry Nelson and Mrs. Walter Davis.

When the need for a school in this area came up there was a great deal of controversy. Large land owners objected because of the rise in their taxes. Two acres of land for the school site was purchased from Clarence Fredell in 1927. Children of the district started to school in September of that year, attending classes in the barn until Christmas, when the school was ready for occupancy. Miss Dorothy Brown, just out of Normal School, was the first teacher and boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nelson. She taught there for two years and later married Lester Herbig, and now lives at Lundbreck. The School Trustees at that time were Elza Sanders, Walter Davis and Henry Nelson. Other teachers were: Beulah Kennedy, Clara Busse, Douglas Stirling, Jessie Esplin, Ethel Starr, Irene Smith, Patricia Wickens, Mrs. Marvin Brockway and others.

Most of the children rode horses to school, though some drove a horse and buggy. The school was heated by wood and coal. Some of the teachers weren't so popular. Two young boys set the prairie on fire so their teacher couldn't get home.

This school was closed in 1958. Clarence Fredell bought back the land and school. Students come by bus now to Cayley Elementary and High School.

Leona Houlden

Clarence Fredell

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Fredell met one another at the Agricultural College at Claresholm, and were married in Walla Walla, Washington. Clarence was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Fredell who settled in the Blacie district in 1905. In the fall of 1917 he bought land from Walter Vine in what was later the Springdale district, and he and his bride moved to the farm. Their eldest daughter, Maxine, is Mrs. Richard Cunningham of Edmonton where Dick is Inspector of Industrial Arts with the Department of Education. Florence is Mrs. Ken Smith of Lompoc, California.

Eden Valley Indian Reservation

For many years the Lefthand, Dixon and Daniels families preferred to live on the ranches south of the Highwood River rather than on the Stony Indian Reserve at Morley. In the 1940's the Dominion Government purchased the Eden Valley Ranch to serve as a sub-reserve for these families and their descendants. In 1967 there is a population of approximately 250 persons on the reserve.

Annette Christofferson and Don Pence on the old foot bridge.

Only a suspension foot bridge connected the reserve on the south side of the river to the road on the north side until a steel bridge which had been used in the Fort Macleod area was transported to the reserve entrance and placed on new abutments.

The Eden Valley Band is governed from Morley. A Councillor elected at Eden Valley – Johnny Lefthand is the current Councillor – represents the Band at Council Meetings.

Good houses have been built on the Reserve, and Calgary Power is presently going in. For the first time in 1966-67 School term all school students, with the exception of the primary grades, are being bussed out to school at Longview.

Eden Valley Ranch was owned first by Jim Meinsinger. It was known as the Beaudry Ranch for many years then was purchased by Frazier Hunt of New York who named it Eden Valley. Hunt sold it to John Garner who sold to the Dominion Government.

Eden Valley farm land in the Fosk area was purchased for the Indians from Tom Hughes.

Top: Bessie Hanna, Paul Amos, Paul Daniels, Red Cloud, Phil Weinard.
Below: Peter Eat, Peter Bearspaw, Mrs. H. Baines, Chief David Bearspaw
Enod Rider, Moses Wesley. *Courtesy of Mrs. B. E. Howe.*

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